

CORBeyRAN

DEFALI

ASSASSIN'S CREED™

3 | ACCIPITER

TITAN BOOKS

ASSASSIN'S CREED™



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STORY : CORBEYRAN
ART : DJILLALI DEFALI
COLOR : ALEXIS SENTENAC

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C O R B E Y R A N

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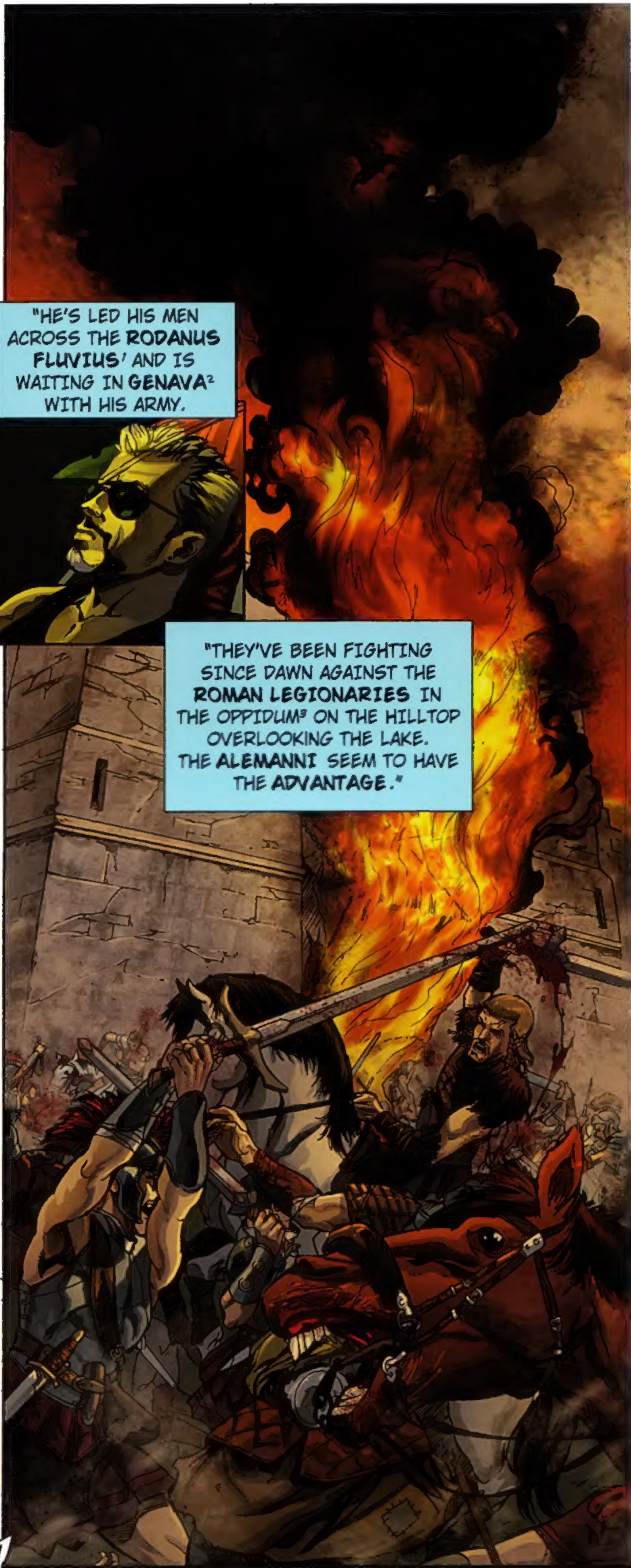
L E S D E U X R O Y A U M E S



WHERE DID YOU
SEND HIM?

SUBJECT
JONATHAN HAWK
IS CURRENTLY IN
THE YEAR 259AD...

HIS ANCESTRAL
SUBJECT, ACCIPITER,
WILL ALLOW US TO
COLLECT SOME VERY
USEFUL DATA FROM
THAT PERIOD.



"HE'S LED HIS MEN
ACROSS THE RODANUS
FLUVIUS¹ AND IS
WAITING IN GENAVA²
WITH HIS ARMY.

"THEY'VE BEEN FIGHTING
SINCE DAWN AGAINST THE
ROMAN LEGIONARIES IN
THE OPPIDUM³ ON THE HILLTOP
OVERLOOKING THE LAKE.
THE ALEMANNI SEEM TO HAVE
THE ADVANTAGE."

¹ THE RHONE RIVER.
² GENEVA, WHICH TODAY CAN BE FOUND IN SWITZERLAND.
³ A LARGE, DEFENDED, IRON AGE SETTLEMENT.





ALLOW ME TO
CONGRATULATE
YOU ON **ANOTHER**
VICTORY, ACCIPITER!

WOULD THAT YOU
TELL ME **YOUR** NAME,
STRANGER, AND I
SHALL THANK YOU
IN RETURN.

YOU HAVE
FORGOTTEN
MY VOICE
AND ACCENT?!
I PRAY THAT
YOU HAVE
NOT **ALSO**
FORGOTTEN
MY FACE!

CUERVO OF
IBERIA!

I DID NOT EXPECT
TO SEE YOU SO
EARLY IN MY
JOURNEY, DEAR
FRIEND!

YOUR
JOURNEY IS
EXACTLY THE
REASON FOR
MY VISIT.

MY
JOURNEY?

YES,
SPECIFICALLY
YOUR NEXT
STOP TOWARDS
THE SOUTH,
LUGDUNUM!

YOUR REPUTATION
PRECEDES YOU, ACCIPITER,
LIKE THE SCENT OF A GREAT
FEAST CARRIED ALONG BY
THE NIGHT AIR. BUT IT ALSO
YIELDS **ANXIETY** WITHIN
OUR CIRCLE.

I'M LISTENING...

THE GAUL CAPITAL IS
A **POWERFUL** CITY. I
WILL NOT DISGUISE THE
FACT THAT MY MEN WOULD
PREFER TO **AVOID** IT
RATHER THAN FIGHT--
BUT, PERSONALLY,
I REMAIN CONFIDENT
THAT WE CAN **VANQUISH**
ITS FORCES!

THE **LIBERALIS CIRCULUM**¹ HAS CREATED SOMETHING **PRECIOUS** IN LUGDUNUM, AND WE CAN'T RISK IT BEING **DESTROYED** BY A RAID ON THE CAPITAL.

I UNDERSTAND. THOUGH, IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY TO OVERLOOK WHAT IS MERELY AN **OBSTACLE**. IT WOULD SHOW US TO BE **WEAK** AND OUR ENEMIES WOULD BECOME **CONFIDENT**!

I KNOW A WAY TO ALLY OUR COMMON INTERESTS. I AM GOING TO ORGANIZE A SECRET MEETING WITH YOU AND THE PREFECT OF LUGDUNUM, TO WHOM YOU WILL LAY DOWN AN **ULTIMATUM**. DEMAND THAT HE EXCHANGE A RANSOM OF GOLD FOR THE ASSURANCE THAT HIS CITY WILL REMAIN **UNTOUCHED**.

THEN OUR PEOPLE WILL BE **SATISFIED** AND ALL WILL BELIEVE THAT **VICTORY** HAS SEEMINGLY BEEN ACHIEVED.

THE PREFECT NO LONGER HAS THE **APPETITE FOR WAR**. HE IS UNABLE TO SLEEP SINCE YOUR HORDES POURED INTO THE COUNTRY. TRUST ME, HE WILL BE **DELIGHTED** TO ACCEPT.

AND IF HE **REFUSES** THE OFFER?

VERY WELL. I WILL DO AS YOU SUGGEST.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE IMAGE IS DISAPPEARING...

I KNOW. I'VE JUST SEVERED THE CONNECTION.

PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS?

HAWK IS AN **EXCELLENT SUBJECT**. BUT HIS SESSIONS IN THE ANIMUS HAVE TO BE **SHORT**.

NEUROPSYCHIATRIC, MORE LIKE. A PROLONGED PERIOD IN THIS MACHINE COULD BE **FATAL** TO HIS MENTAL HEALTH!

OKAY. WELL, LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU RESTART THE SESSION.

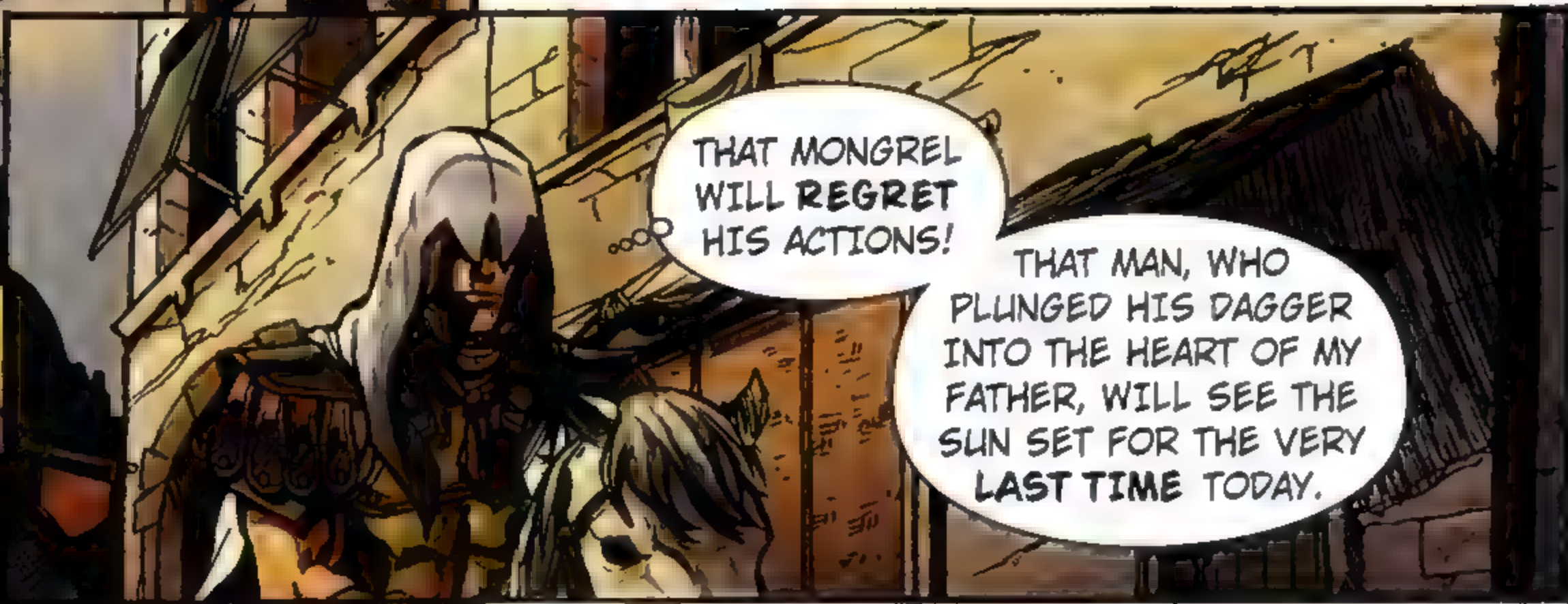
I THINK WE'LL RECONVENE IN TWO HOURS. HE'LL NEED AT LEAST THAT LONG TO RECOVER.

¹AN OLD LATIN WORD THAT THE ASSASSINS APPLIED TO THOSE WHO WERE PART OF THEIR ORDER. 'CIRCULUM' MEANS CIRCLE. 'LIBERALIS' IS A NOTION WHICH PERTAINS TO FREE, HONORABLE, AND LIBERAL MEN.



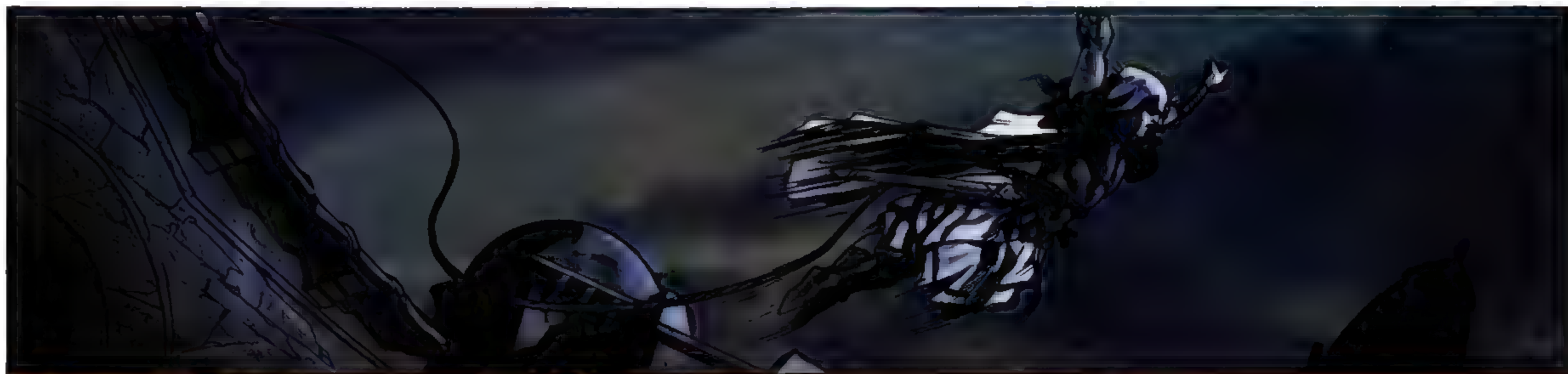
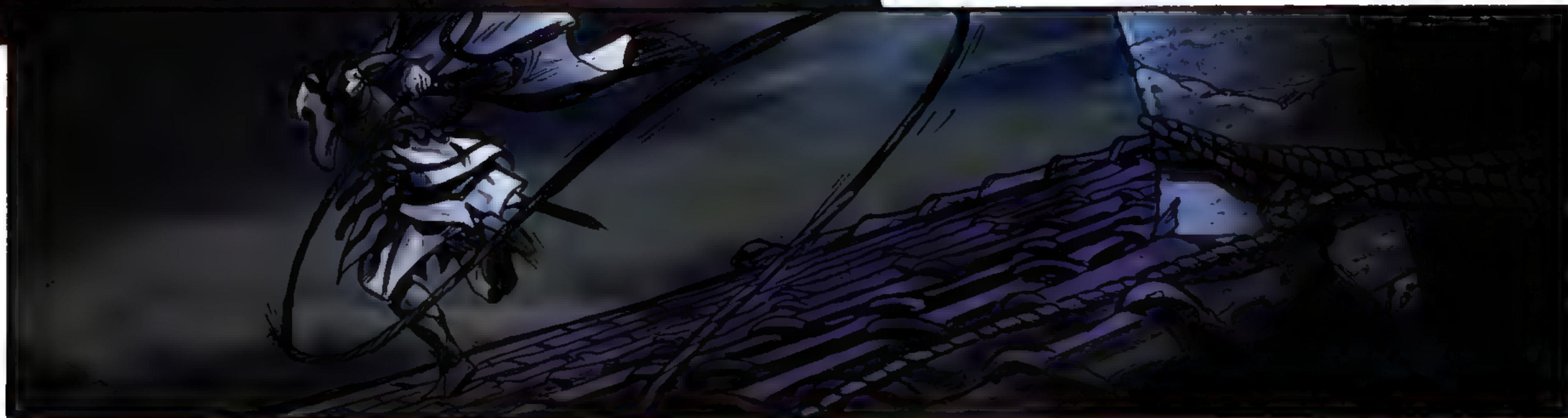
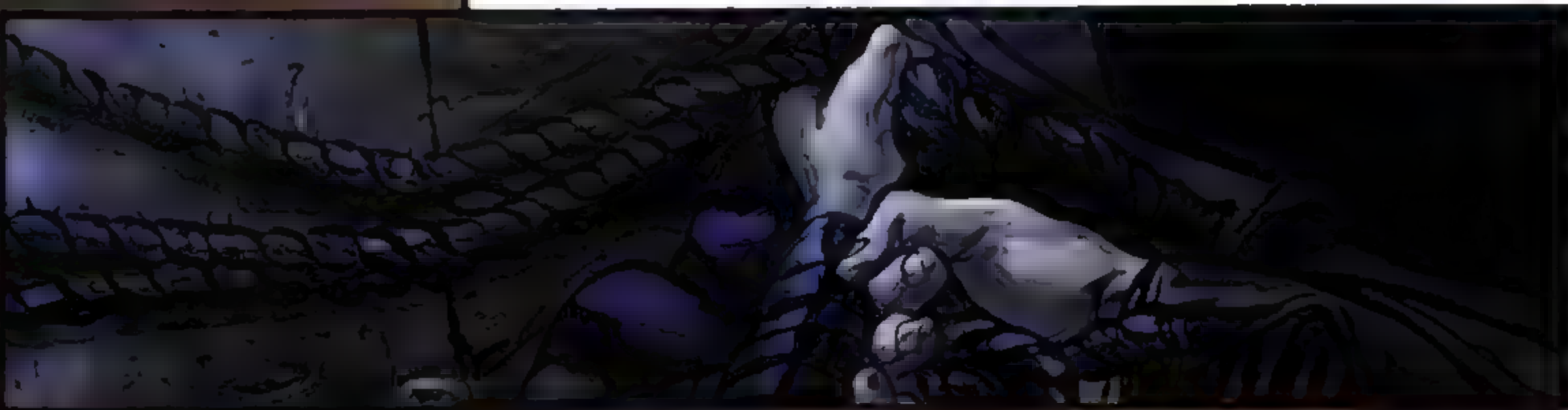
ROME, THE NEXT DAY.

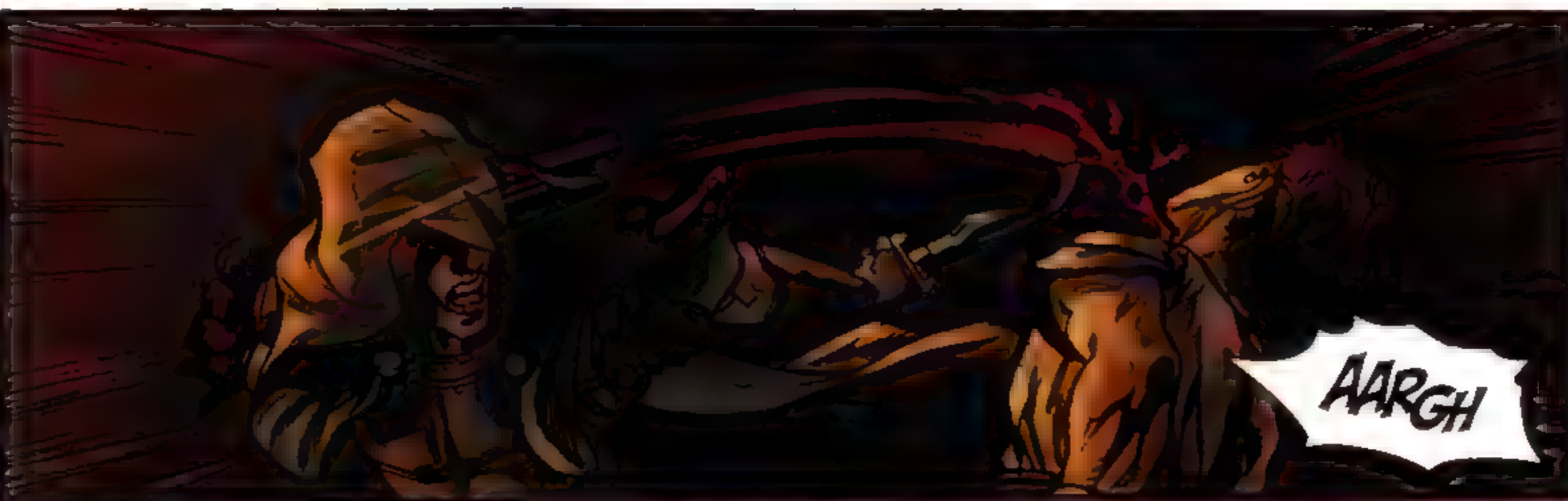
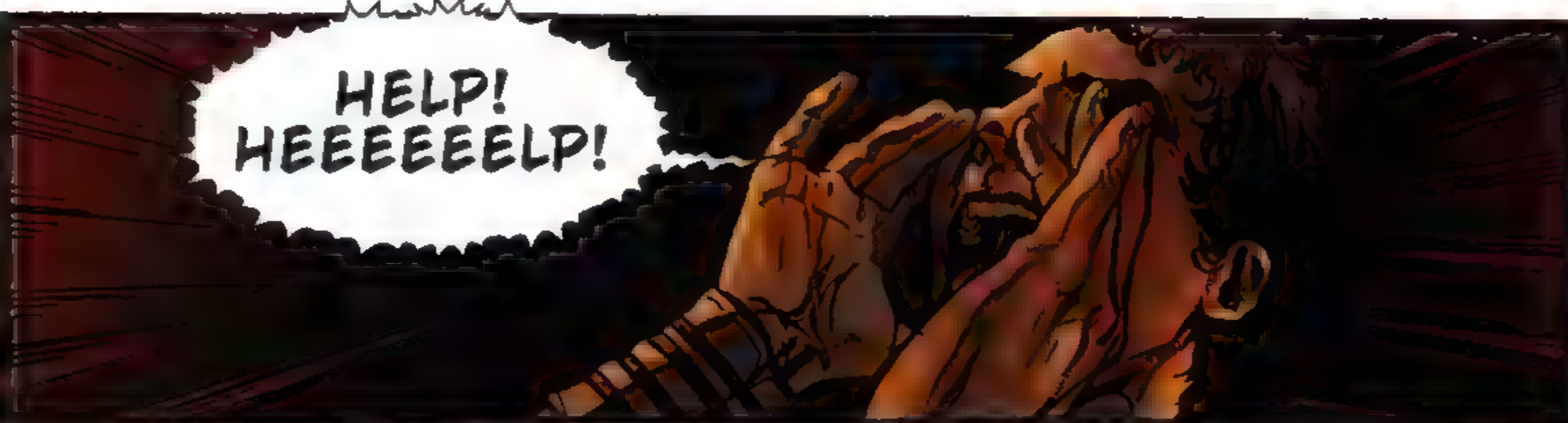
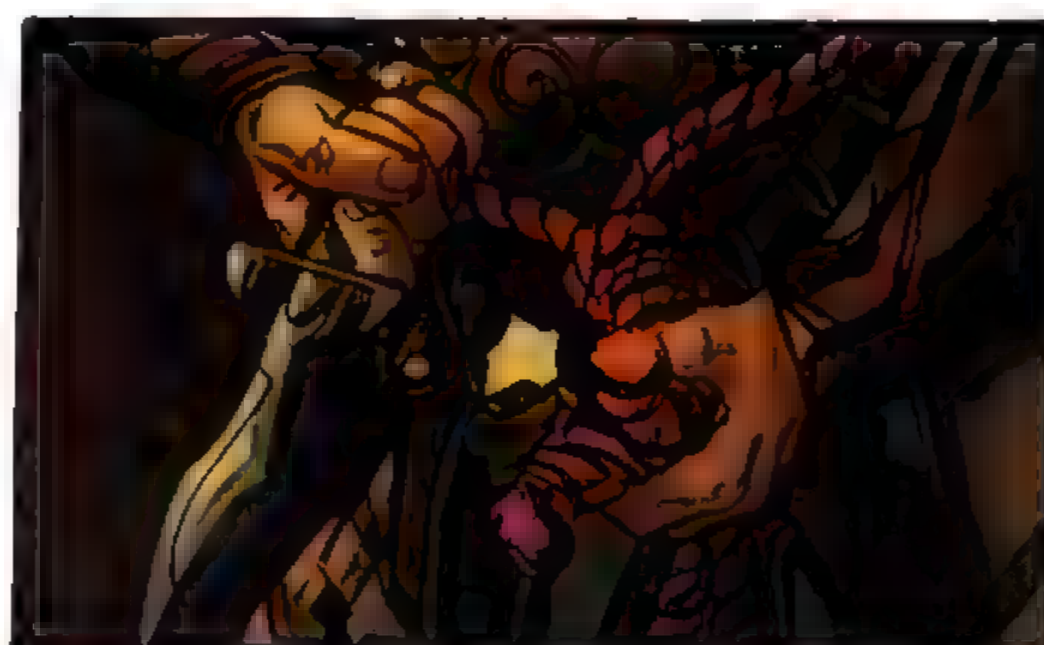
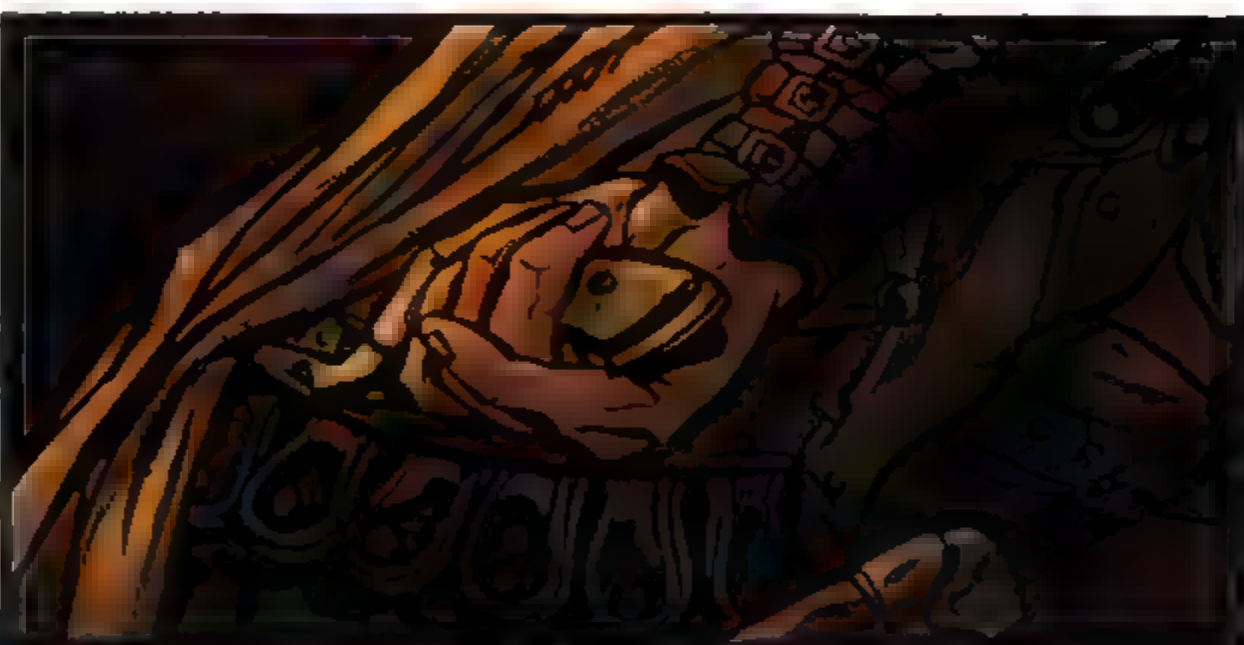
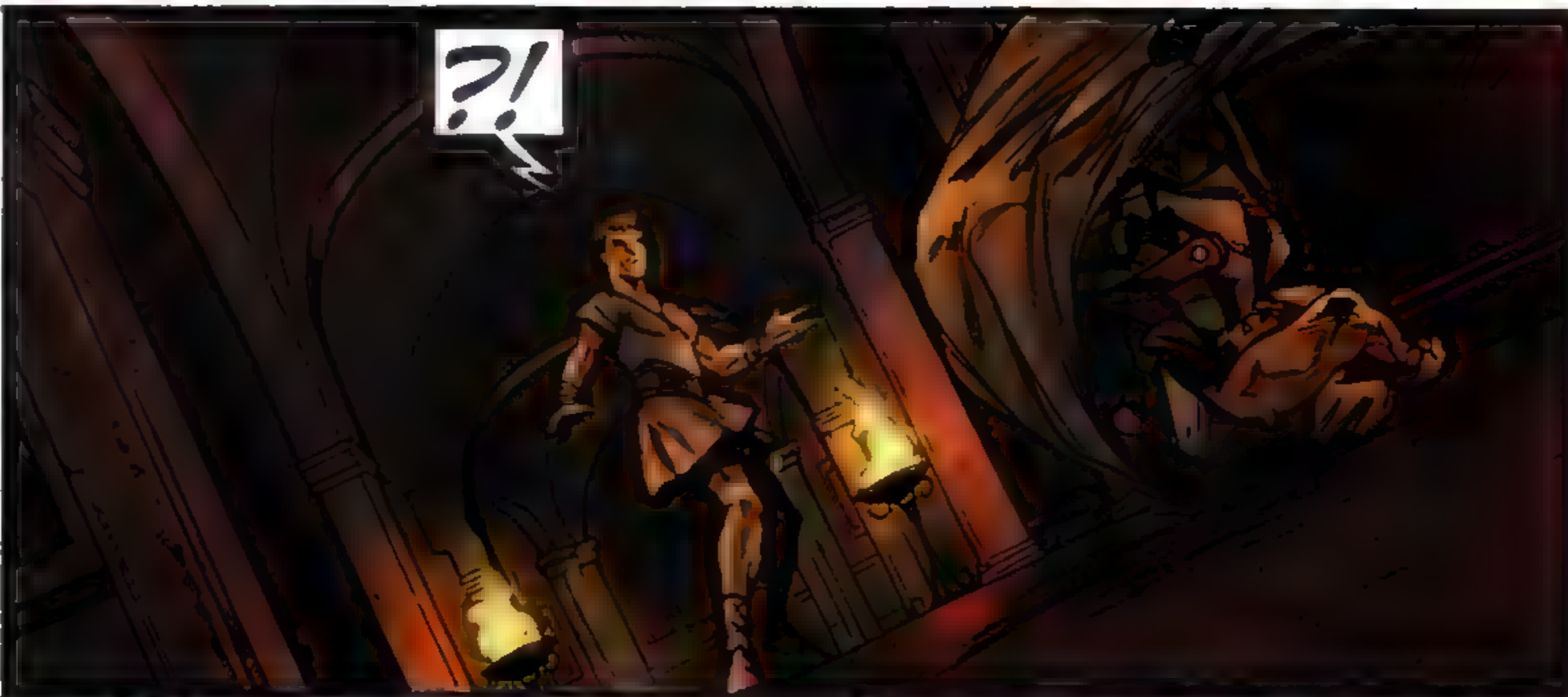
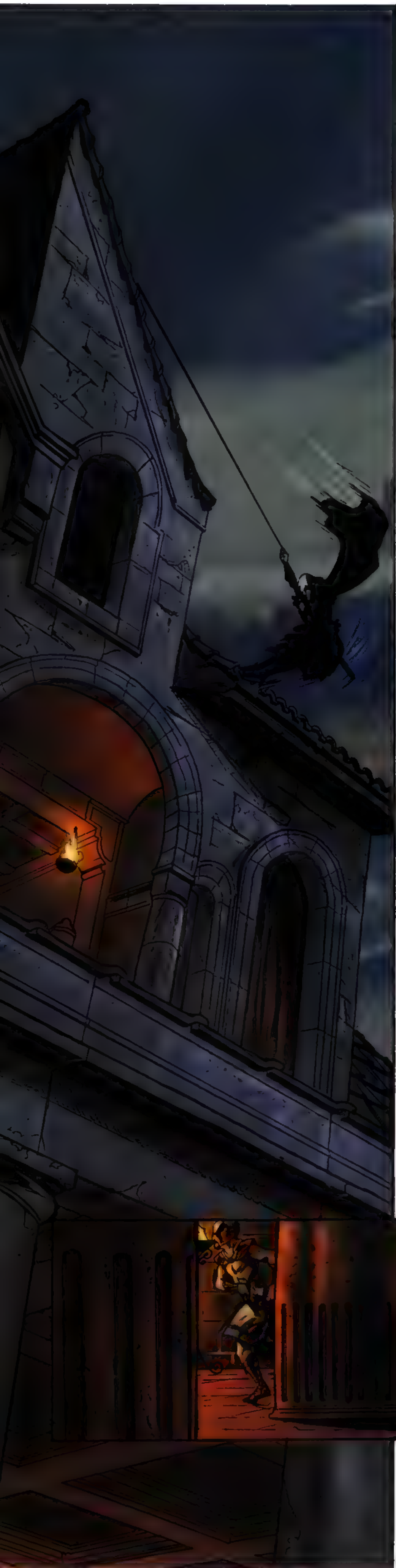
IF MY MEMORY SERVES, THIS VILLA BELONGS TO SENATOR VULTUR.

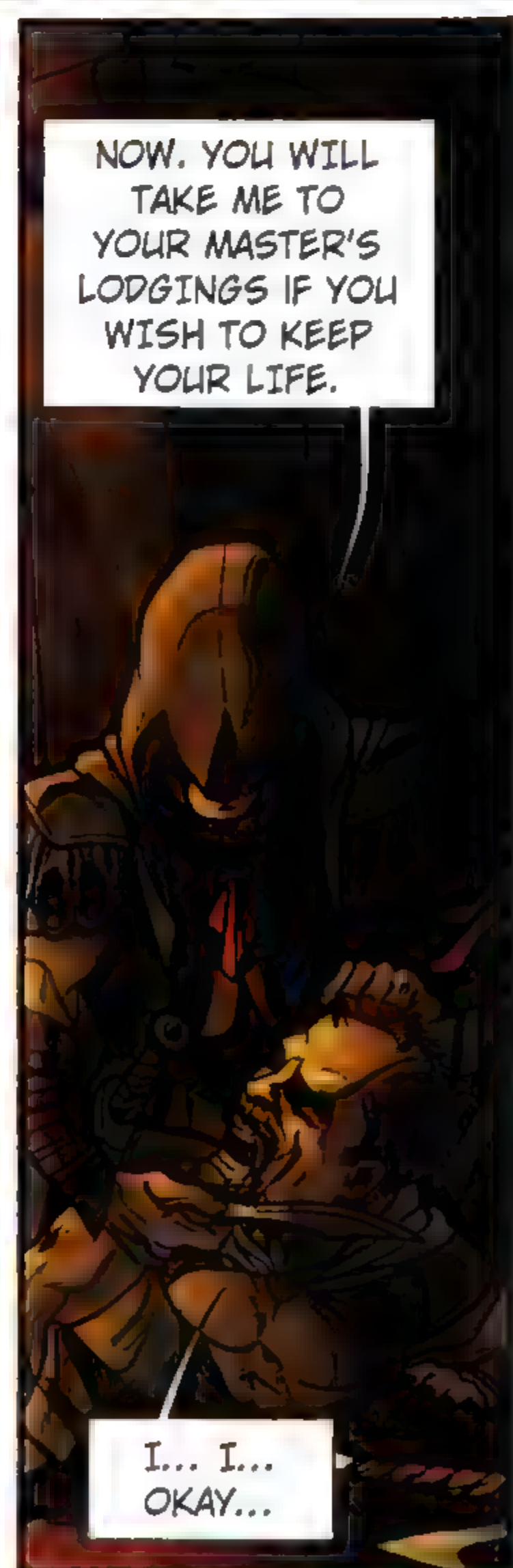
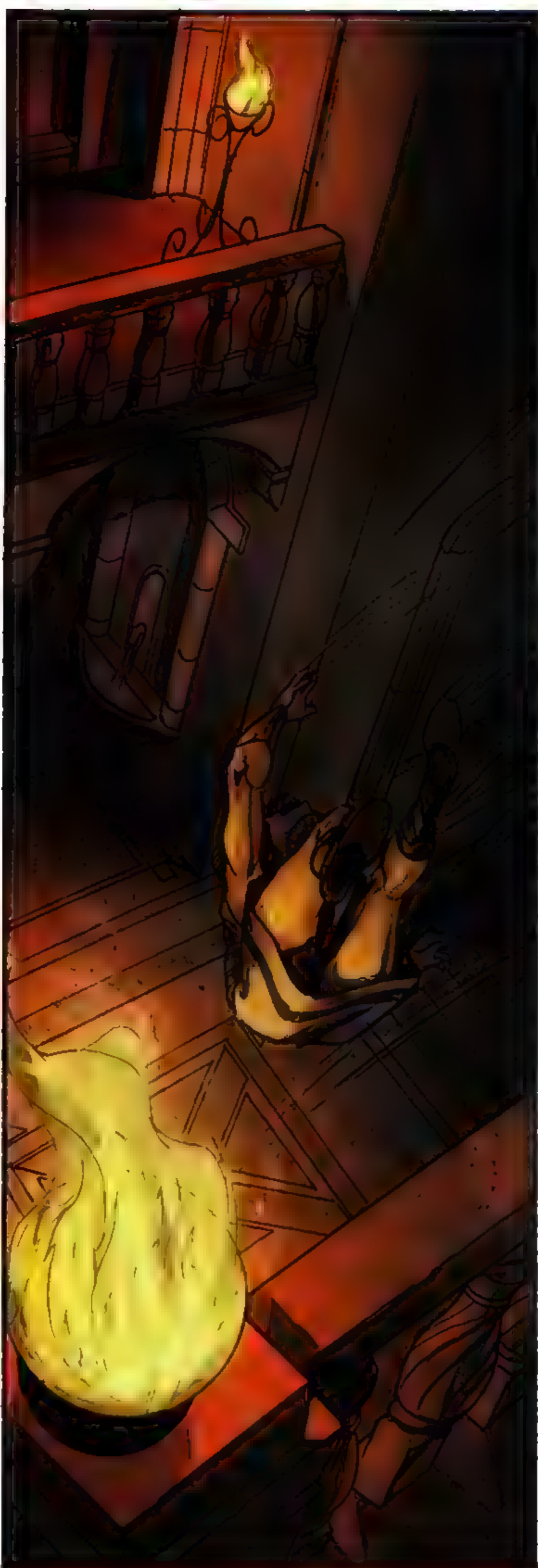
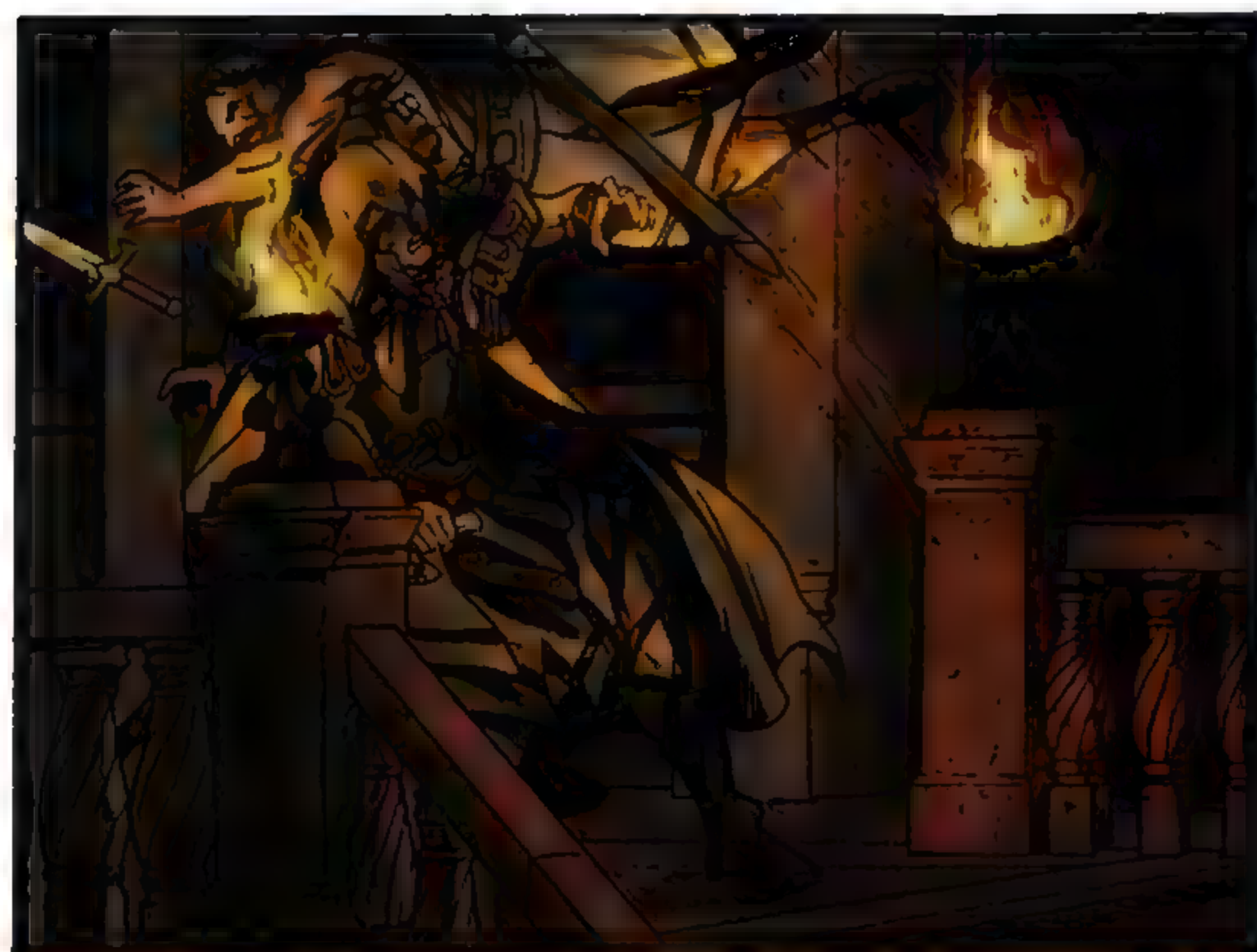


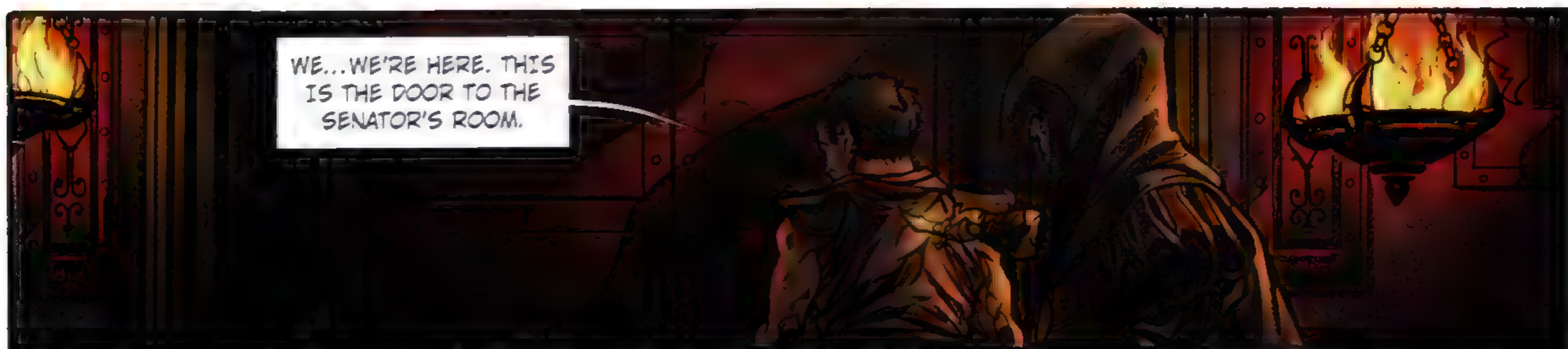
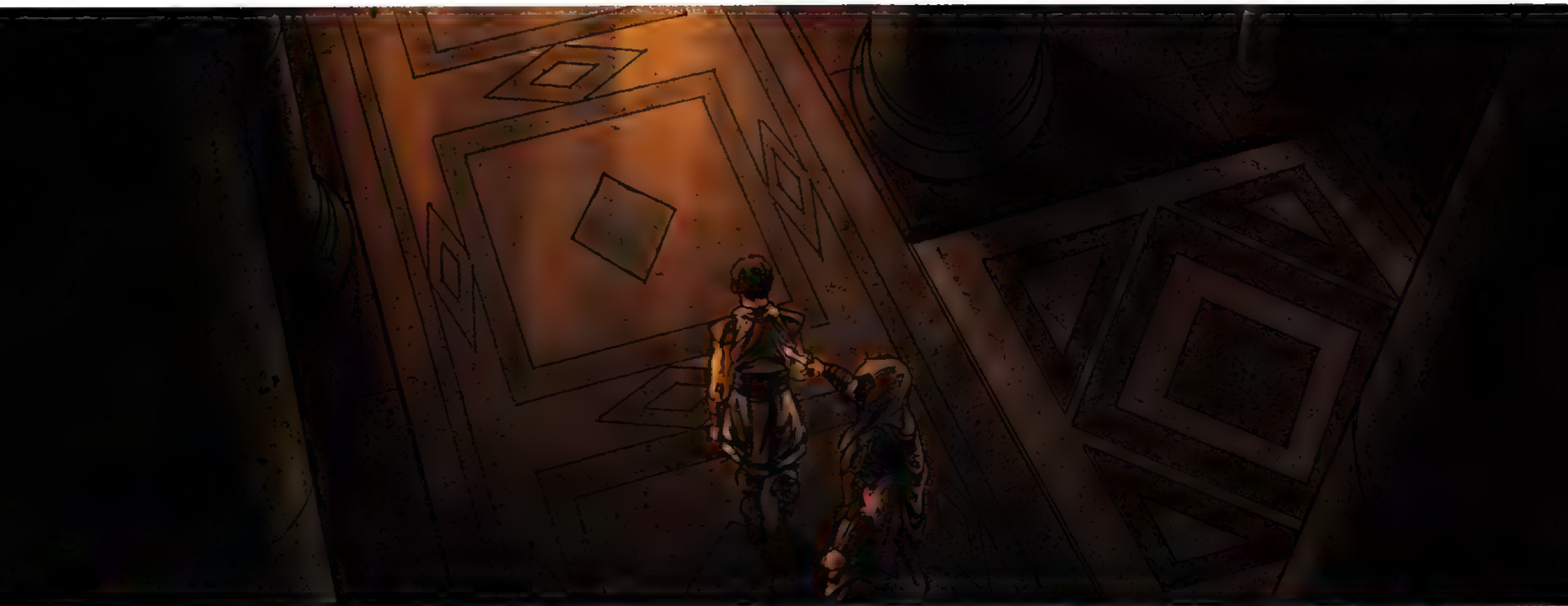
THAT MONGREL WILL REGRET HIS ACTIONS!

THAT MAN, WHO PLUNGED HIS DAGGER INTO THE HEART OF MY FATHER, WILL SEE THE SUN SET FOR THE VERY LAST TIME TODAY.









WE... WE'RE HERE. THIS IS THE DOOR TO THE SENATOR'S ROOM.



VULTUR! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! OPEN THIS DOOR!

THE TIME HAS COME TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!



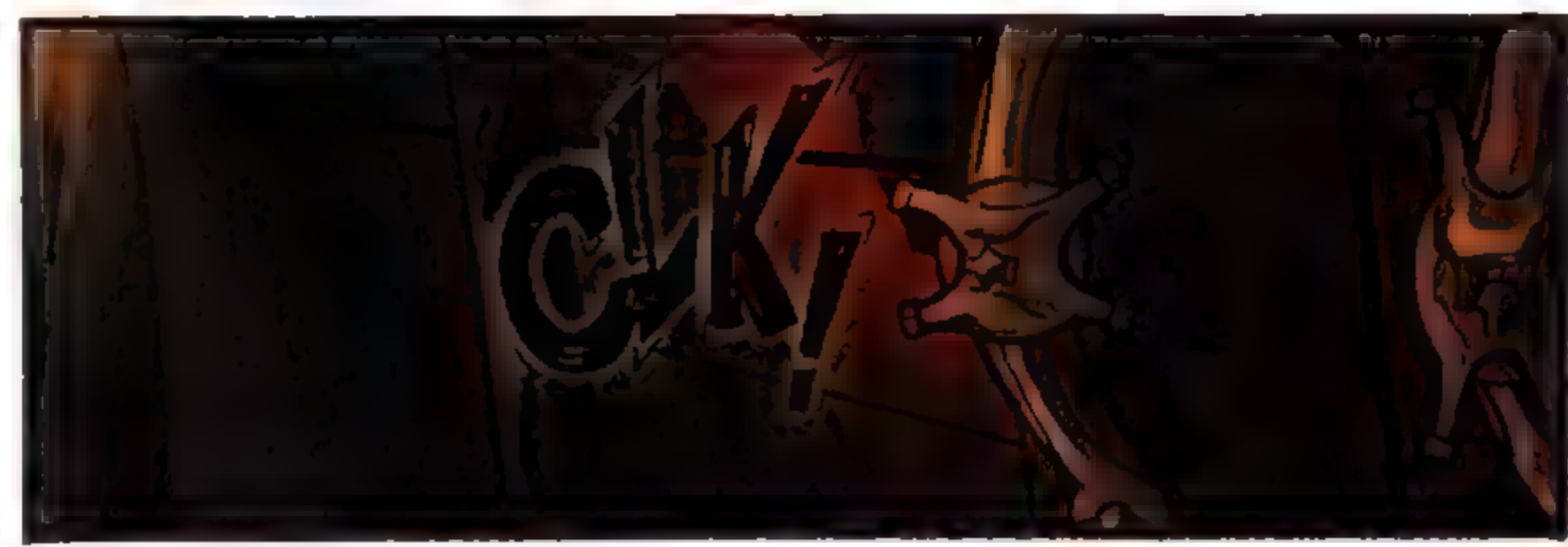
IF YOU REFUSE TO COME OUT, I WILL COME IN! NO MATTER YOUR CHOICE, THE RESULT WILL BE THE SAME. JUSTICE WILL BE SERVED THIS NIGHT!



YOU ARE MISTAKEN IF YOU THINK I'M MAD ENOUGH TO SURRENDER MY THROAT TO YOUR SWORD! YOU'LL HAVE TO COME AND FIND ME, GALL!



SO BE IT--



CLIK!



DIE, YOU SON OF A BITCH!



AAAAH!



NICE TRY, VULTUR! ALAS, THERE GOES YOUR ONLY MEANS OF DEFENCE.



IT'S TIME TO FINISH THIS!



COMMEND YOUR SPIRIT TO THE GODS, YOU SNAKE!

I SCOFF AT YOUR RICHES. THE FIGHT THAT I'M LEADING IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT!

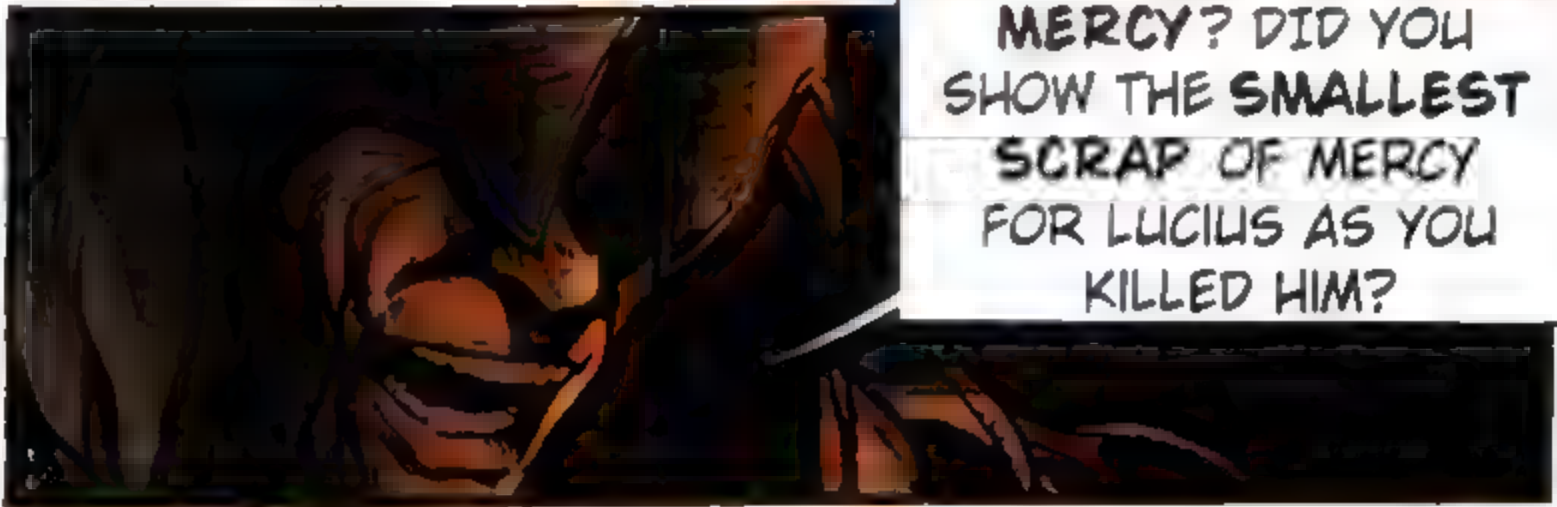
YOU ARE FANATICAL! A...A MADMAN--LIKE YOUR FATHER! YOU THINK YOURSELF BETTER THAN ME? PISH!

YOU ASSASSINATED MY FATHER! AS HIS SON, IT IS MY DUTY TO AVENGE THIS ODIOUS CRIME!

NO--!



H...HAVE MERCY--



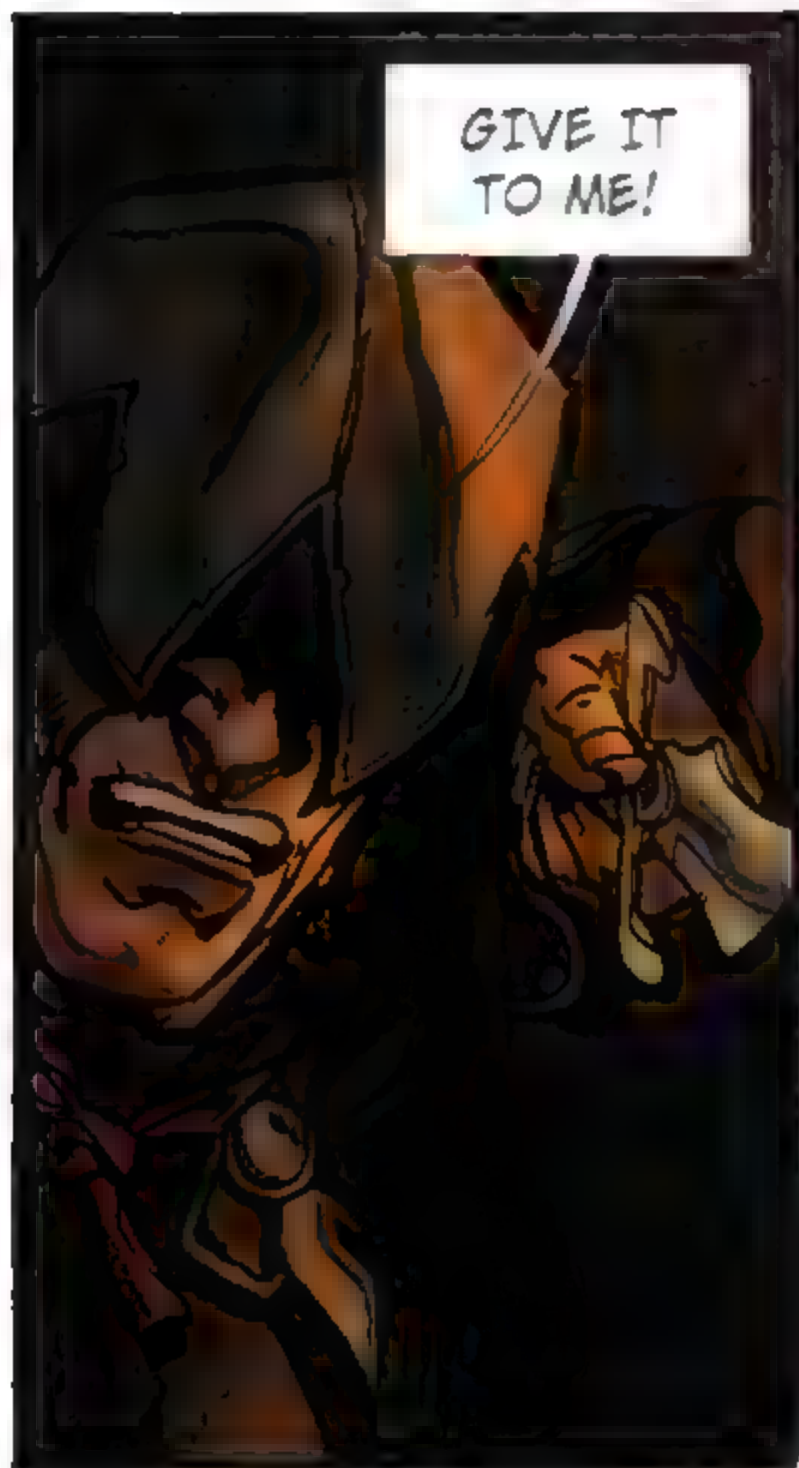
MERCY? DID YOU SHOW THE SMALLEST SCRAP OF MERCY FOR LUCIUS AS YOU KILLED HIM?

SPARE ME, AQUILUS, AND I WILL MAKE YOU A RICH MAN!



BE UNDER NO ILLUSION, VULTUR. YOU WILL DIE. BUT BEFORE I KILL YOU, YOU ARE GOING TO REVEAL THE LOCATION OF THE ANKH THAT YOU STOLE.

IT IS IN THE CHEST. THERE!



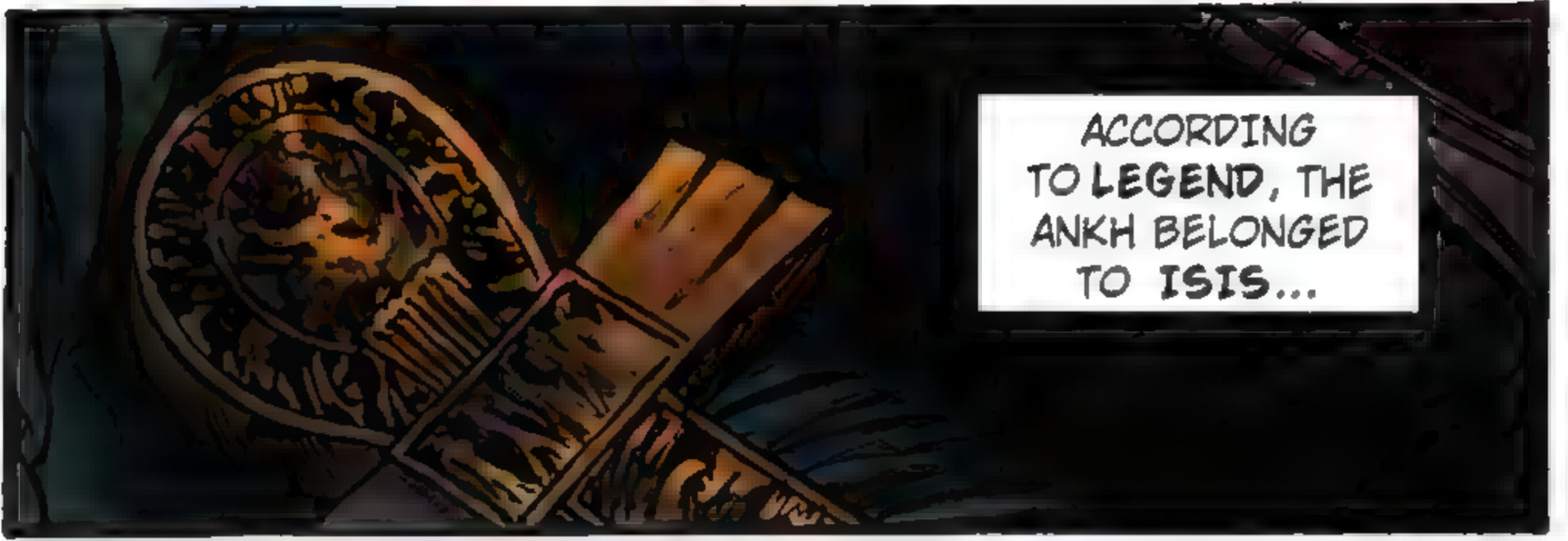
GIVE IT TO ME!



ALL IN GOOD TIME, AQUILUS! DO YOU KNOW THE ORIGIN OF THIS OBJECT? OR JUST HOW VALUABLE IT REALLY IS?



I AM AWARE OF ITS PURPOSE. UNFORTUNATELY, MY FATHER DIED BEFORE HE COULD DISCLOSE ANY FURTHER DETAILS...



ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THE ANKH BELONGED TO ISIS...

THE MOTHER GODDESS WAS WORSHIPPED ACROSS THE ENTIRE NILE DELTA.



"THANKS TO THIS MAGICAL CROSS, ISIS PROTECTED THE EGYPTIAN KINGS FROM DECAYING..."



10

"THE LEGEND TELLS US THAT WHEN OSIRIS DIED, ISIS WAS COMPLETELY DISTRAUGHT FROM GRIEF AND HEARTACHE...

"THE GODDESS USED THE ANKH TO BRING HER HUSBAND BACK TO LIFE FOR A SINGLE NIGHT.

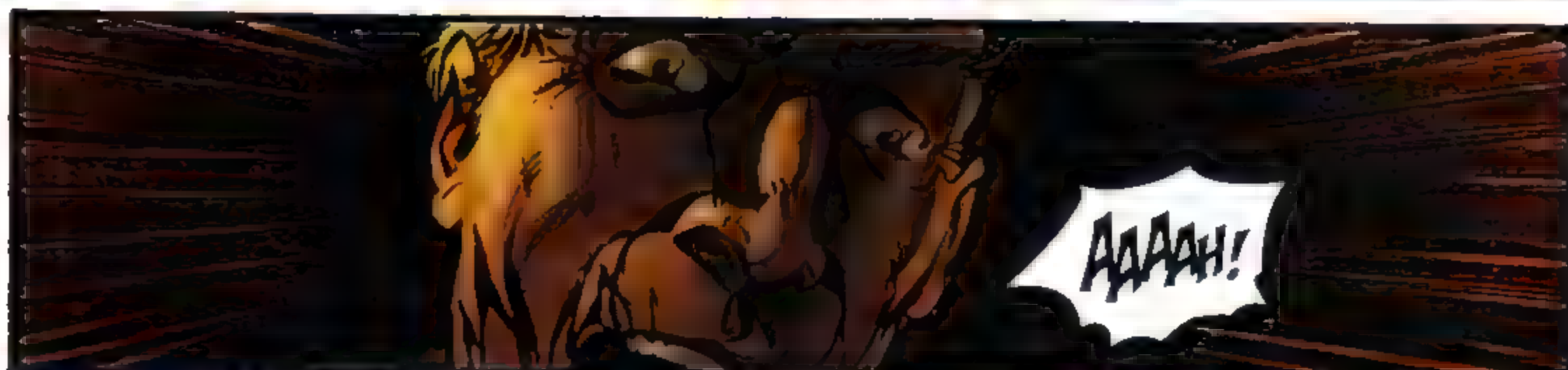
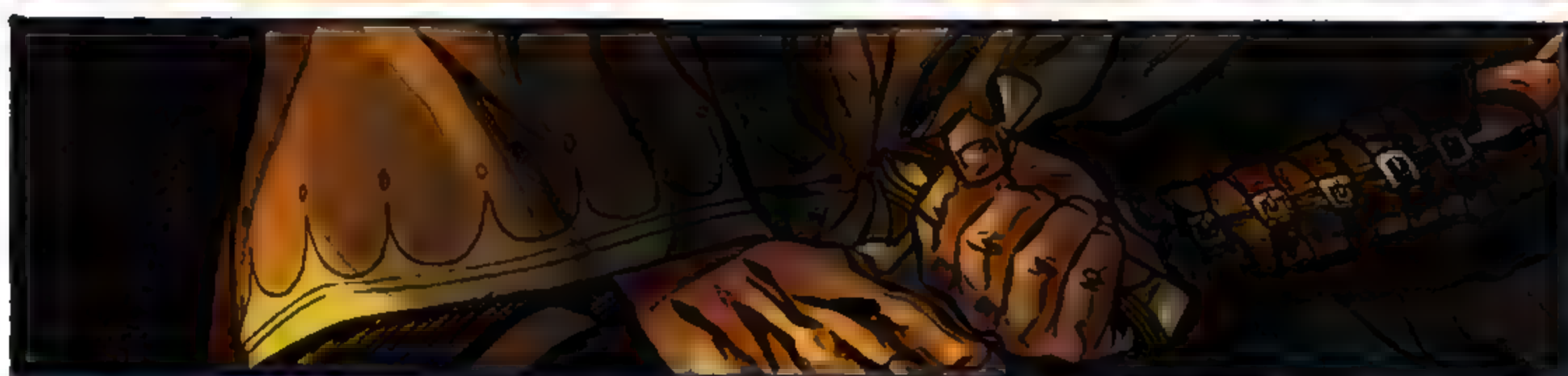
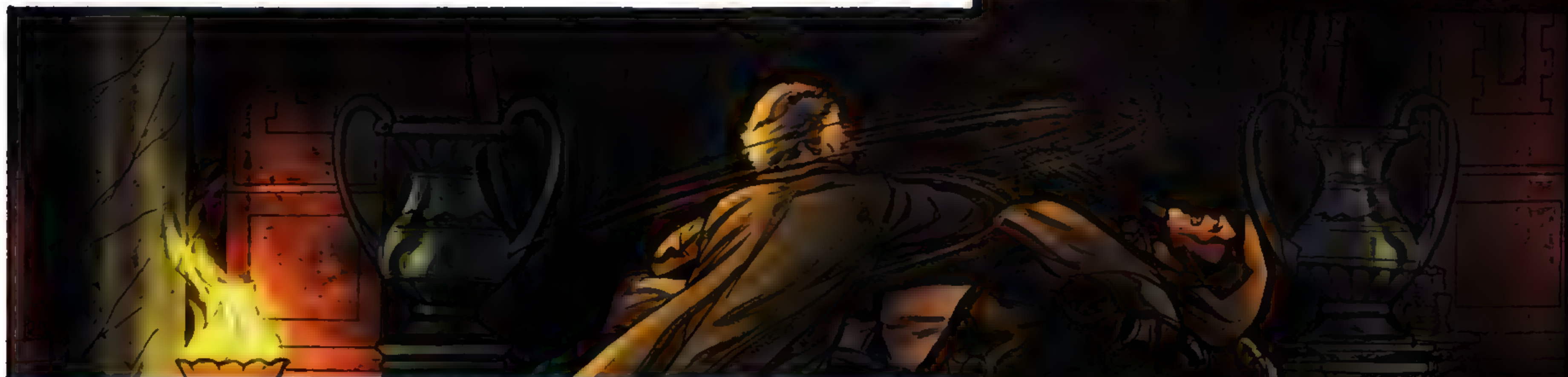
"FROM THEIR CARNAL UNION, HORUS WAS BORN.

"IT WAS FROM THIS MOMENT THAT THE POWERS OF REGENERATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH BEINGS FROM BEYOND WERE ATTRIBUTED TO THIS ANSATE CROSS.

"MORE THAN 200 YEARS AGO, THE ANKH WAS RECOVERED FROM A PYRAMID BY ROMAN LOOTERS.

"IT WAS SOLD TO A SLAVE TRADER FOR NEXT TO NOTHING, WHO BROUGHT IT WITH HIM, RIGHT HERE TO ROME, WHERE HE RETIRED. BANKRUPT AND IGNORANT OF ITS REAL VALUE, HE GOT RID OF THE OBJECT AT A VERY LOW PRICE.

"THE CROSS THEN PASSED FROM HAND TO HAND. IT WAS SOLD AND RESOLD ON MANY OCCASIONS AND FELL INTO OBLIVION AFTER BEING LOST."



MONTERIGGIONI VILLA,
ITALY. TODAY.

DESMOND'S
GENETIC MEMORY
IS LIMITLESS!

EVERY DETAIL
IS RECORDED
WITH
INFINITE
PRECISION.

YES, IT'S
ABSOLUTELY
INCREDIBLE!

BELIEVE ME, LUCY,
JUST BECAUSE I'M
HERE TO OPERATE
THE ANIMUS,
DOESN'T MEAN
THAT I'VE NEVER
NOTICED IT.

I, MYSELF,
WOULDN'T DREAM
OF DOING IT! BUT
SO LONG AS YOU
DO THE WORK,
TO THE BEST OF
YOUR ABILITY, YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE
TO NEGLECT YOUR
FEELINGS.

HMMM. WHAT IS IT
EXACTLY YOU FIND
INCREDIBLE, LUCY?
THE SUBJECT--
OR HIS MEMORY?

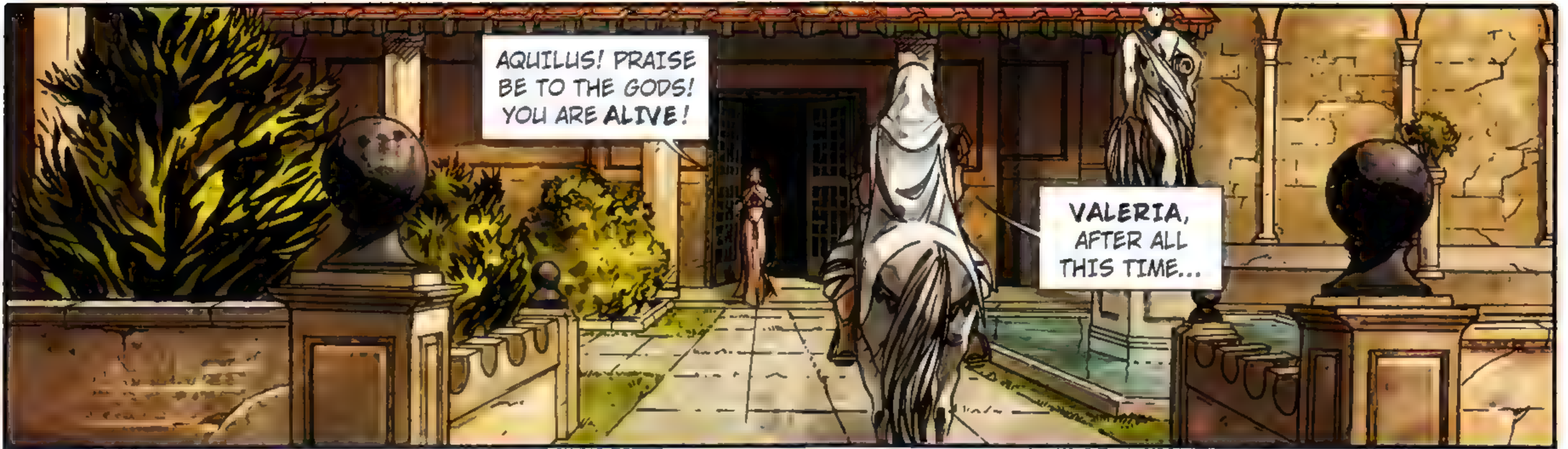
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO
INSINUATE, REBECCA?
THAT I'M TOO CLOSE TO
DESMOND? AM I BEING
UNPROFESSIONAL?

YOUR COMMENTS ARE
COMPLETELY OUT
OF LINE, REBECCA!
THERE IS NOTHING
GOING ON!

OKAY, OKAY. I'M
SORRY. I DIDN'T
KNOW IT WAS SUCH A
DELICATE SUBJECT.

LET'S JUST DROP
IT. WE HAVE TO
STAY FOCUSED.

"AQUILLUS IS WHAT'S
IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS."

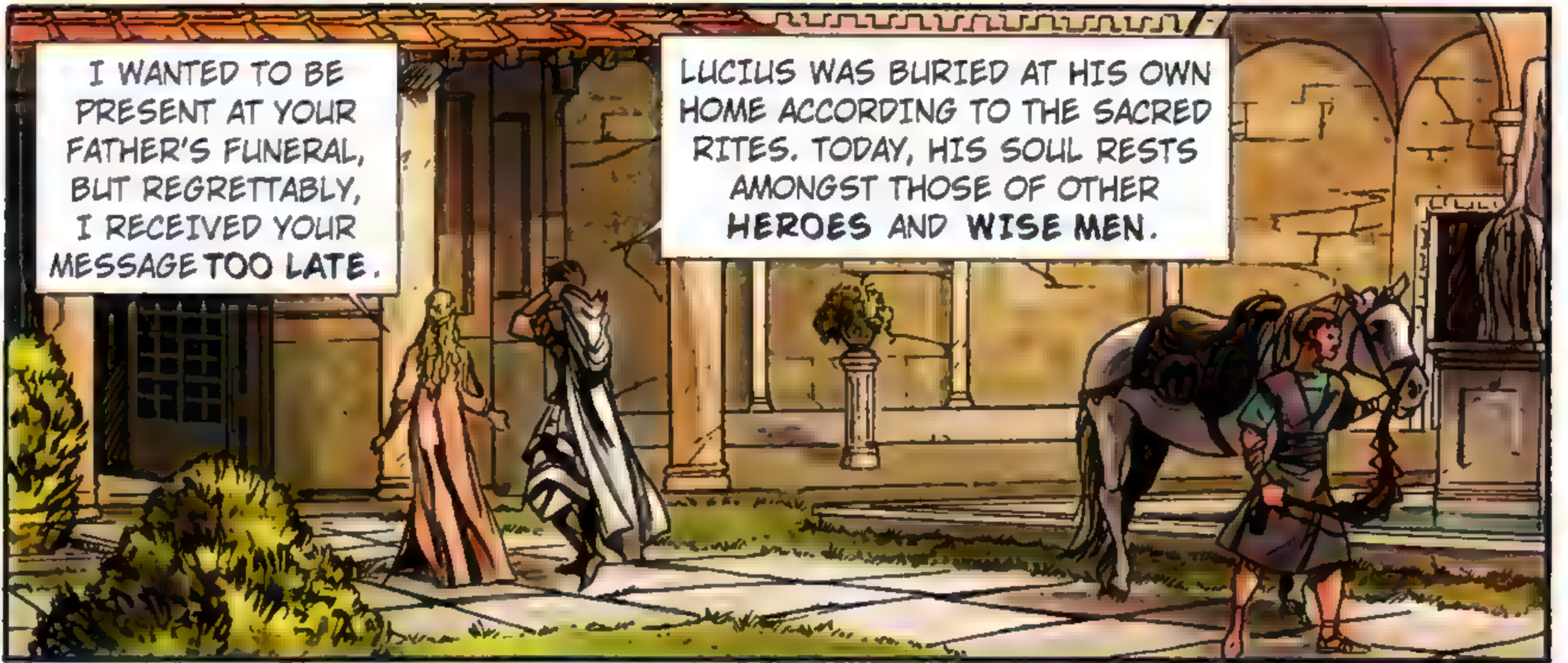


AQUILLUS! PRAISE
BE TO THE GODS!
YOU ARE ALIVE!

VALERIA,
AFTER ALL
THIS TIME...



I AM SO
HAPPY TO SEE
YOU AGAIN!



I WANTED TO BE
PRESENT AT YOUR
FATHER'S FUNERAL,
BUT REGRETTABLY,
I RECEIVED YOUR
MESSAGE TOO LATE.

LUCIUS WAS BURIED AT HIS OWN
HOME ACCORDING TO THE SACRED
RITES. TODAY, HIS SOUL RESTS
AMONGST THOSE OF OTHER
HEROES AND WISE MEN.



HIS HONOR
HAS BEEN...
AVENGED.



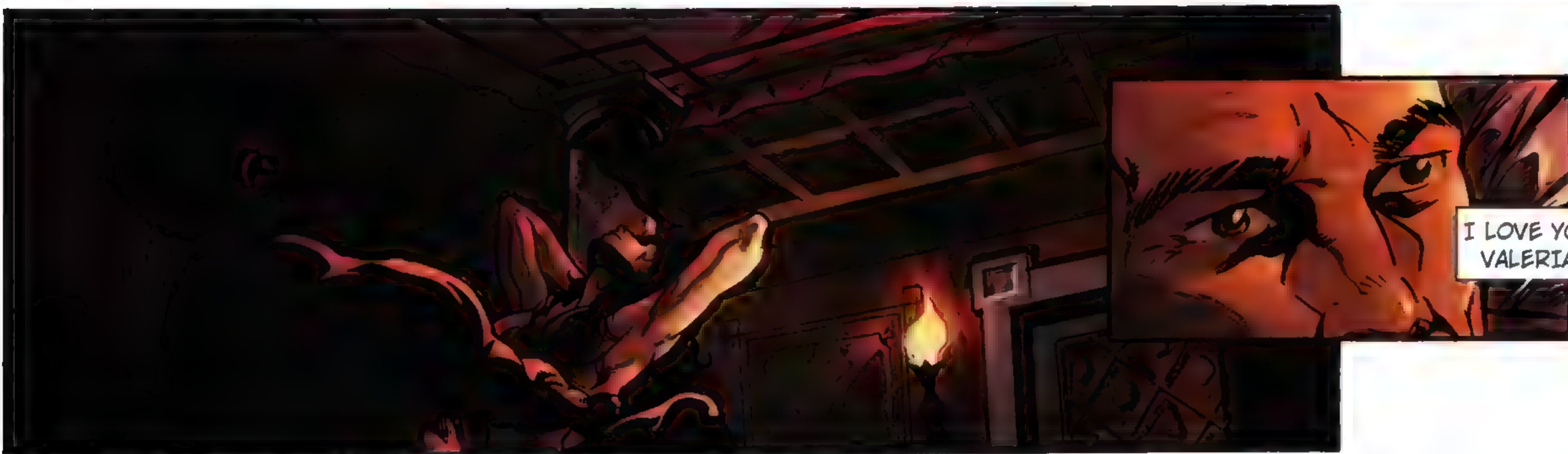
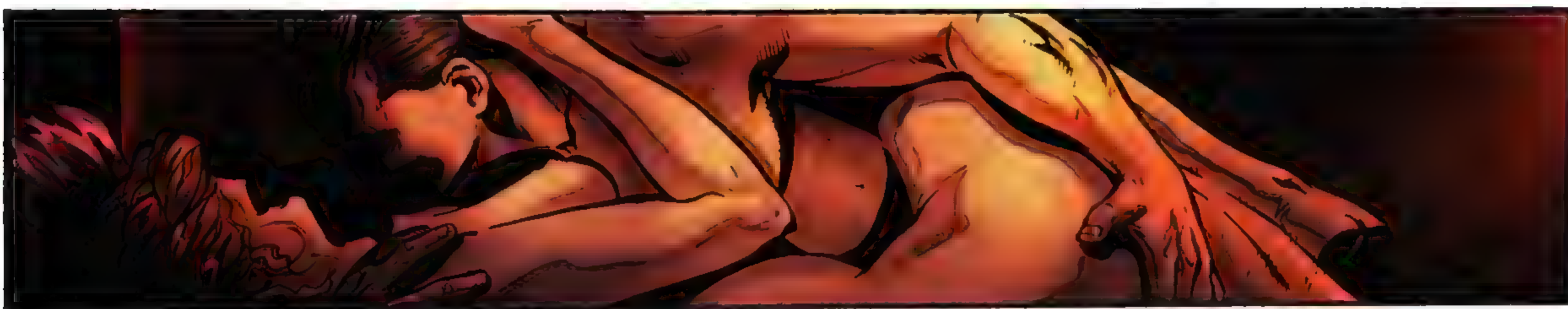
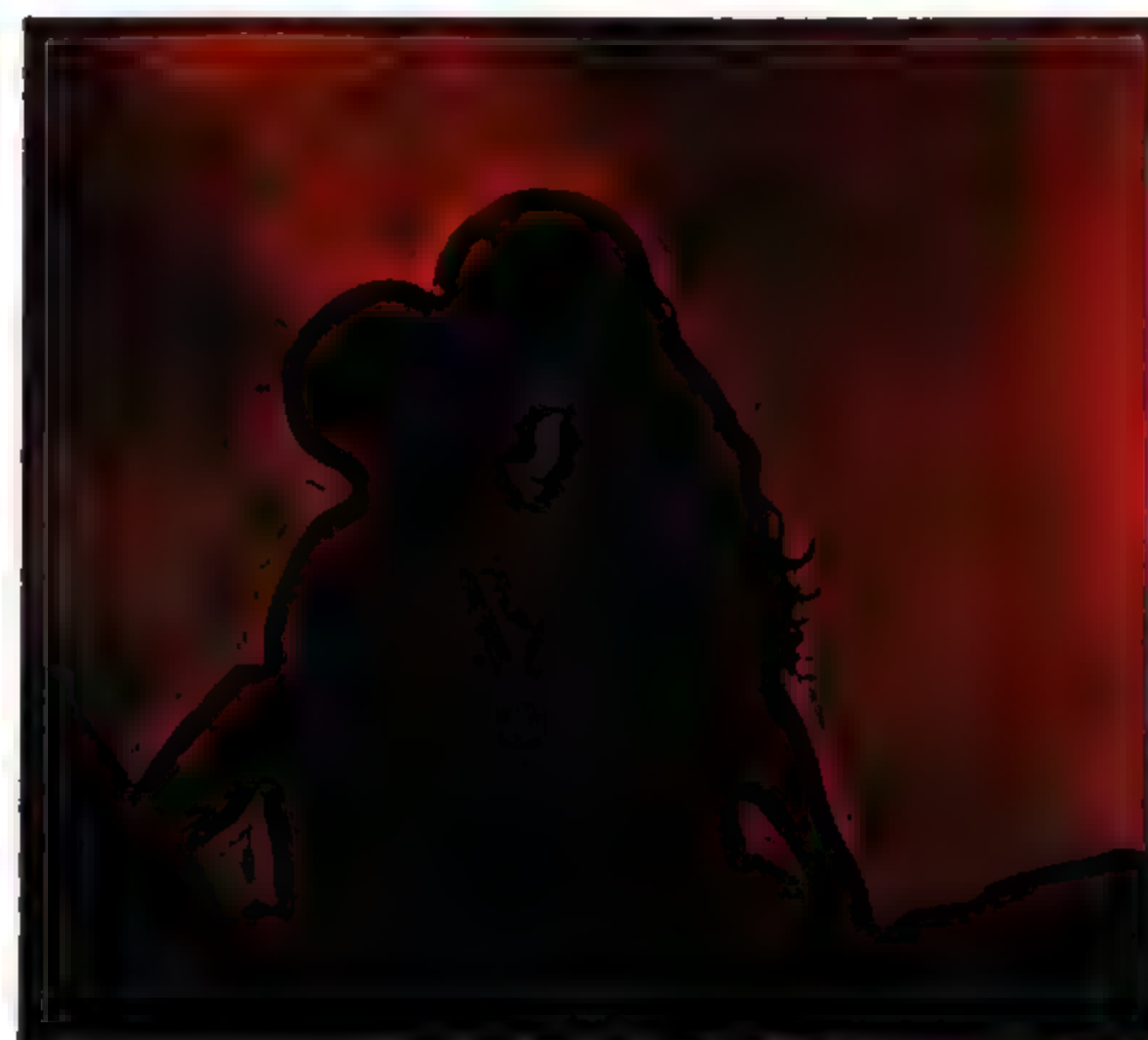
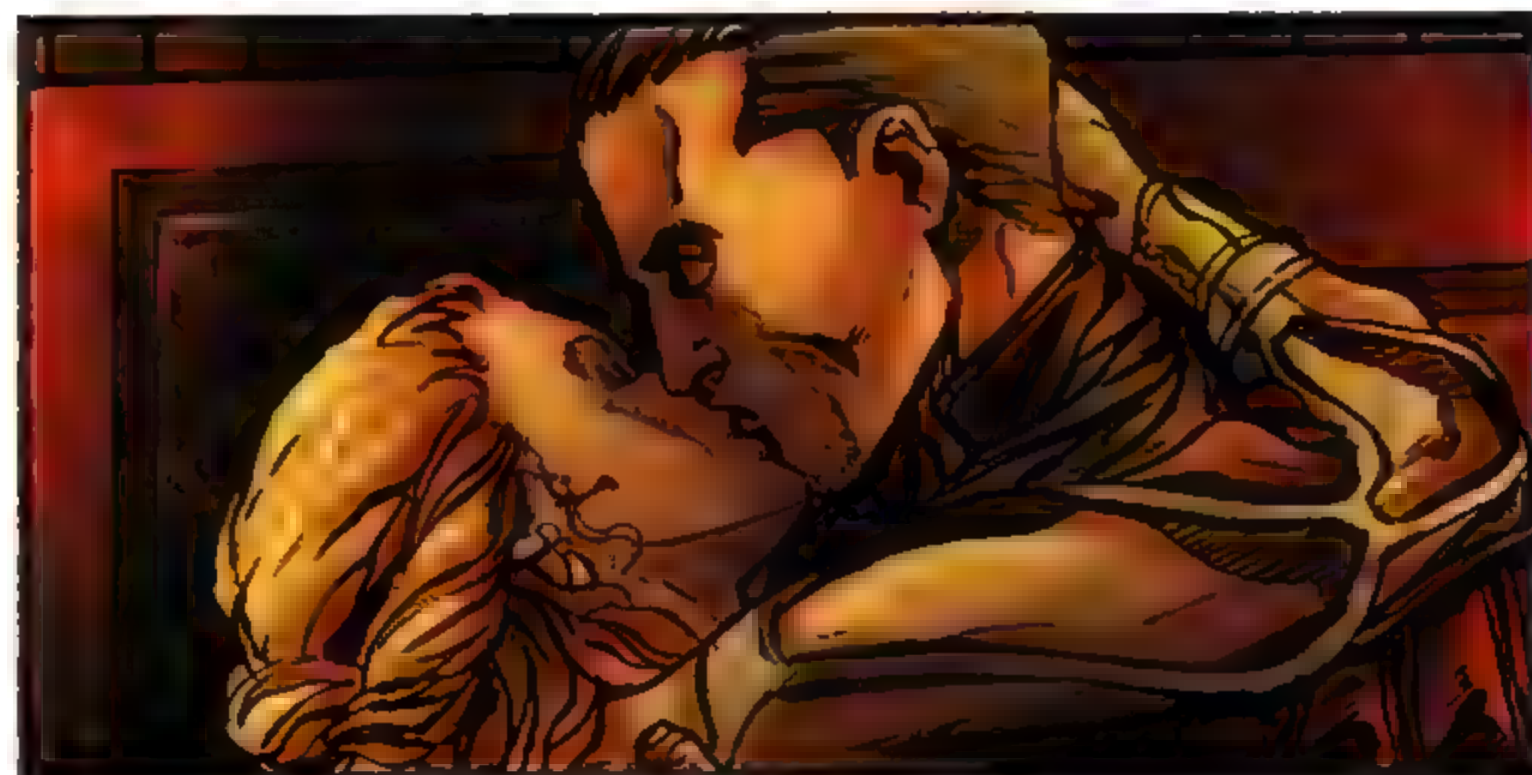
BY MY HAND, THE
BLOOD OF HIS
ASSASSIN RUNS.



AND I HAVE RECLAIMED
THE OBJECT THAT HE
STOLE FROM MY FATHER.

WAS IT FOR THIS OBJECT
THAT YOU HAD TO LEAVE YOUR
WIFE AND DESERT YOUR
HOME FOR SO LONG?

MY LIFE IS WORTH LESS
THAN THE MISSION THAT
WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME.





DESMOND?



CAN YOU HEAR ME, DESMOND?

WH...WHAT'S HAPPENING?



I'VE DISCONNECTED THE ANIMUS.

IS THERE A PROBLEM?



WE'VE GOT INTRUDERS TRESPASSING IN THE GROUNDS.

THE OTHERS HAVE GONE. ONLY US, REBECCA, AND SHAWN ARE LEFT. BUT THEY AREN'T TRAINED FOR COMBAT.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR SUCH CONCERN. I'M READY.

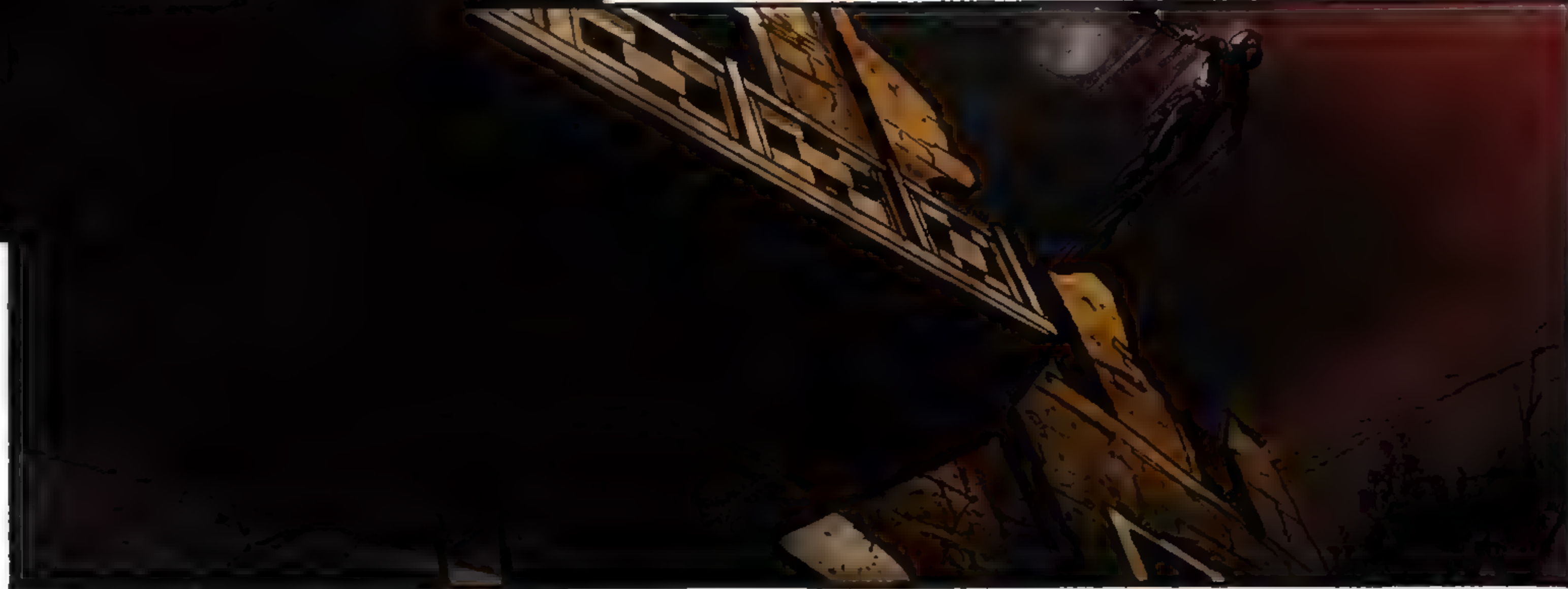
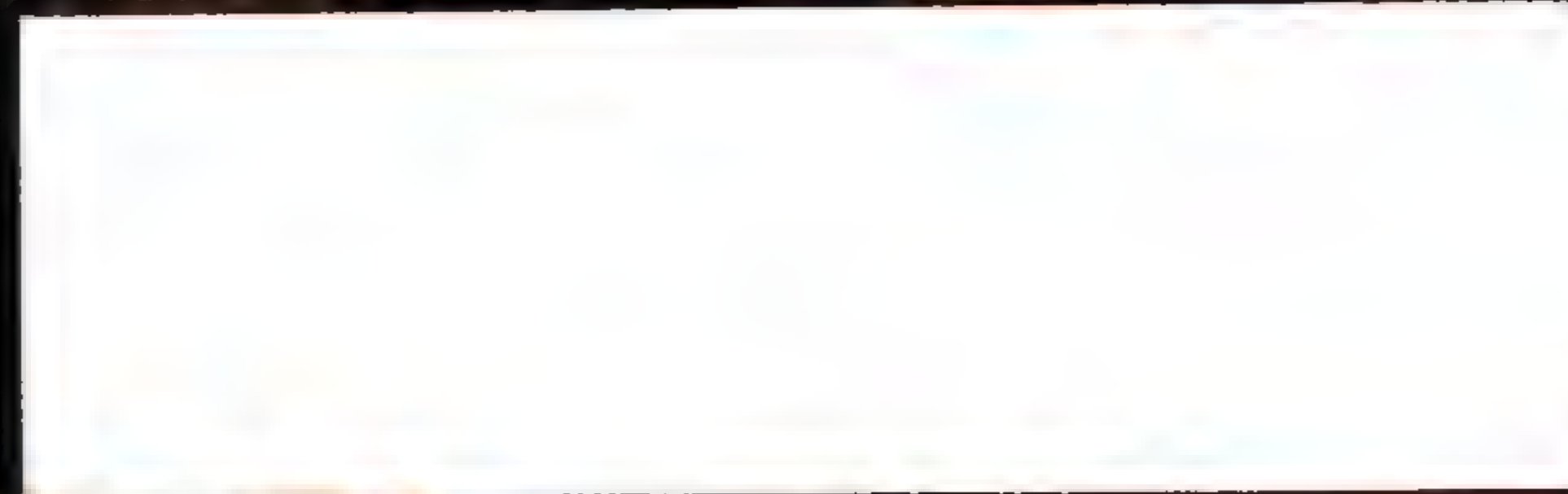
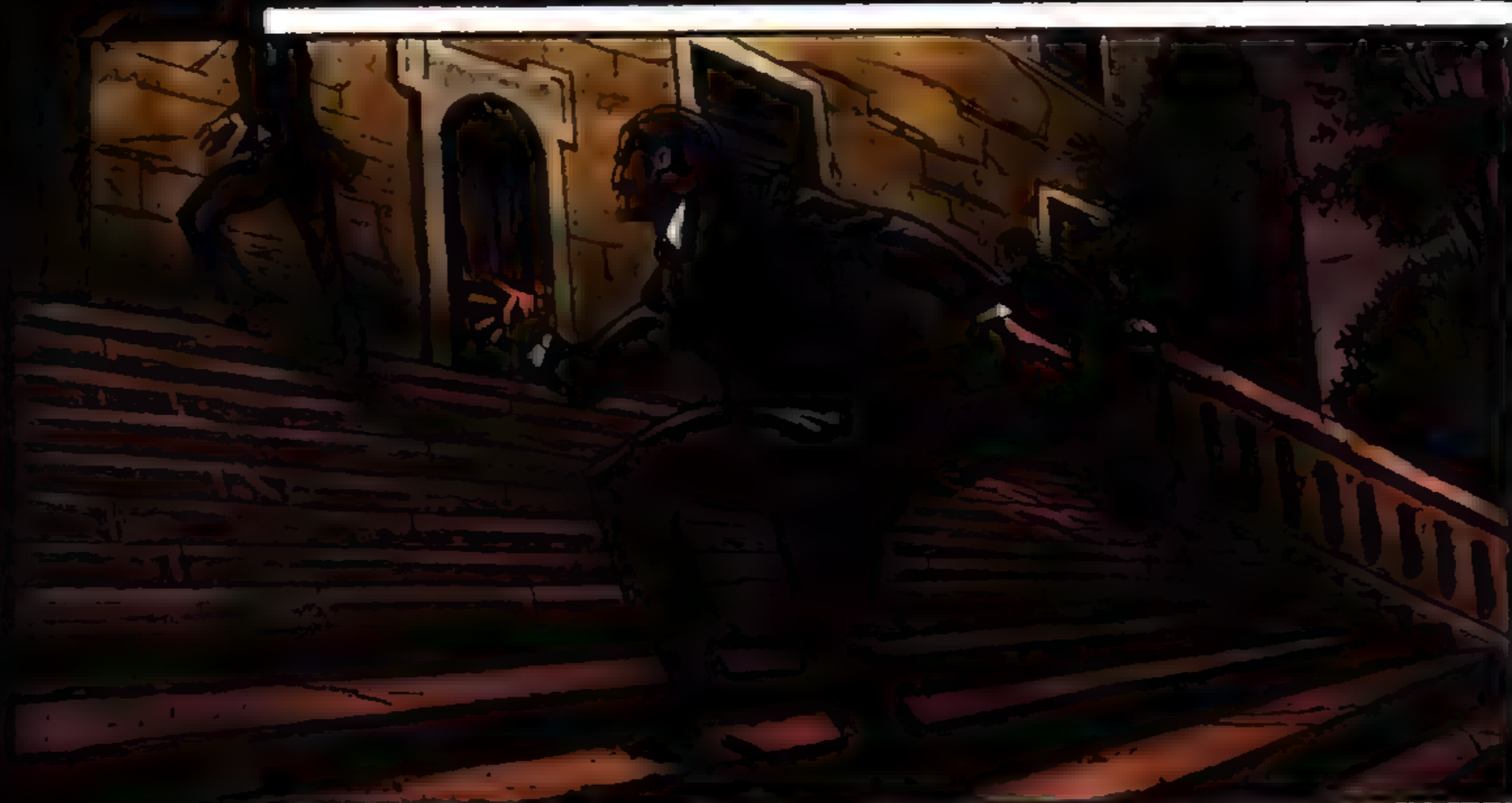
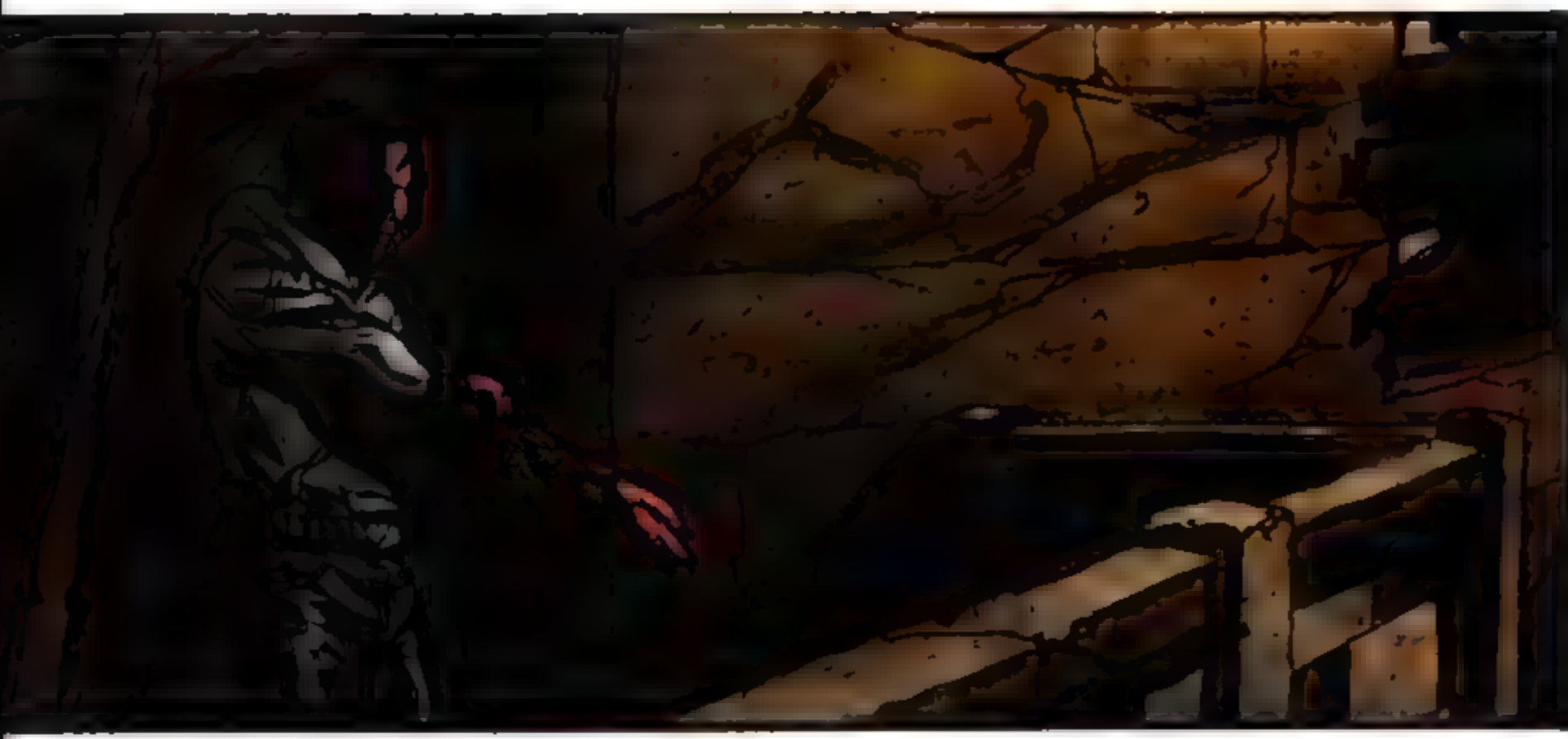
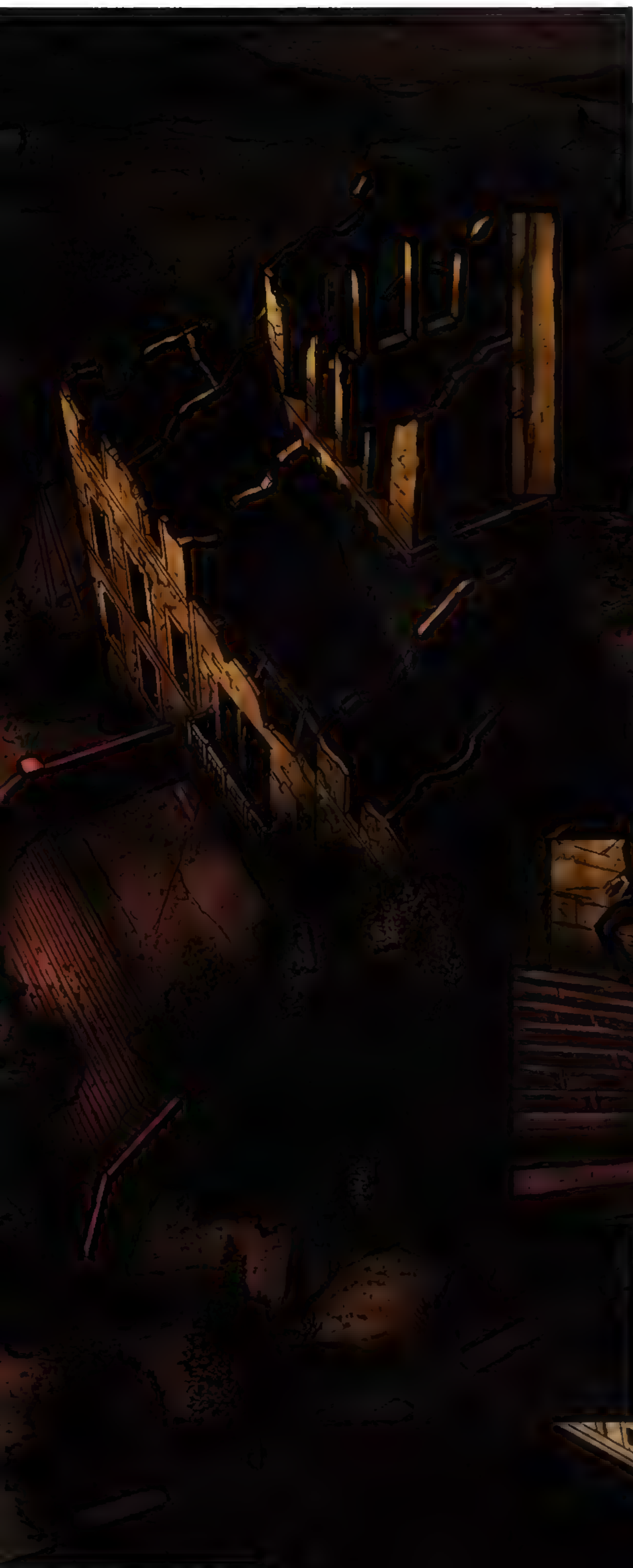


ARE YOU SURE?

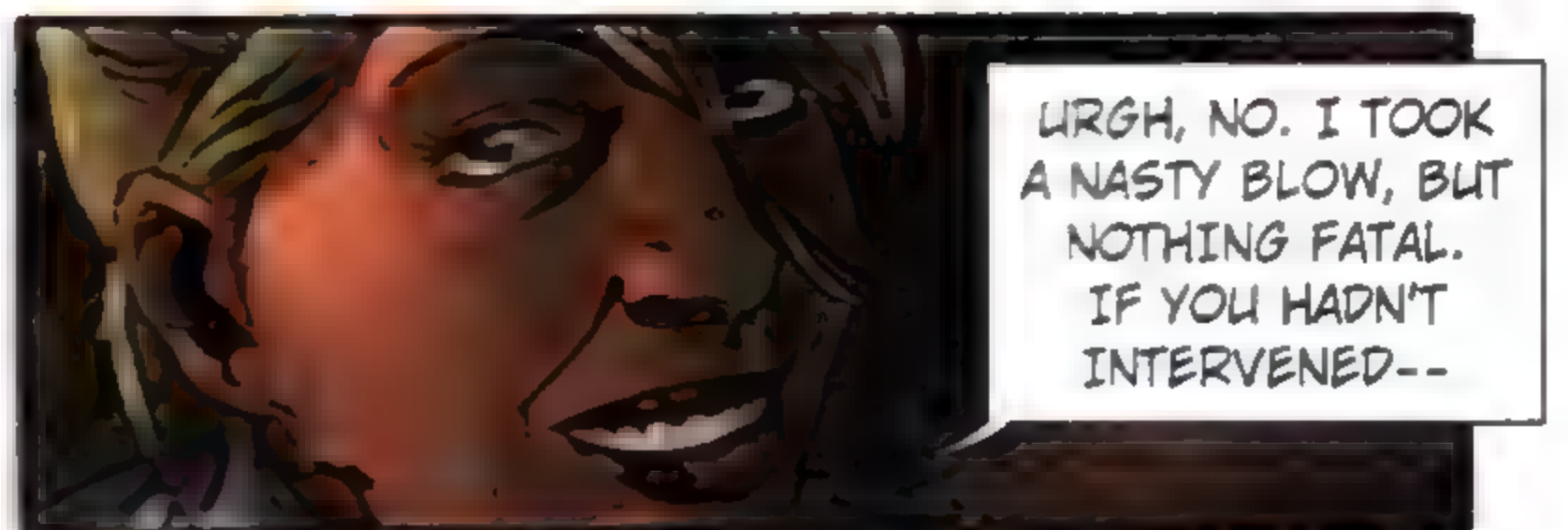
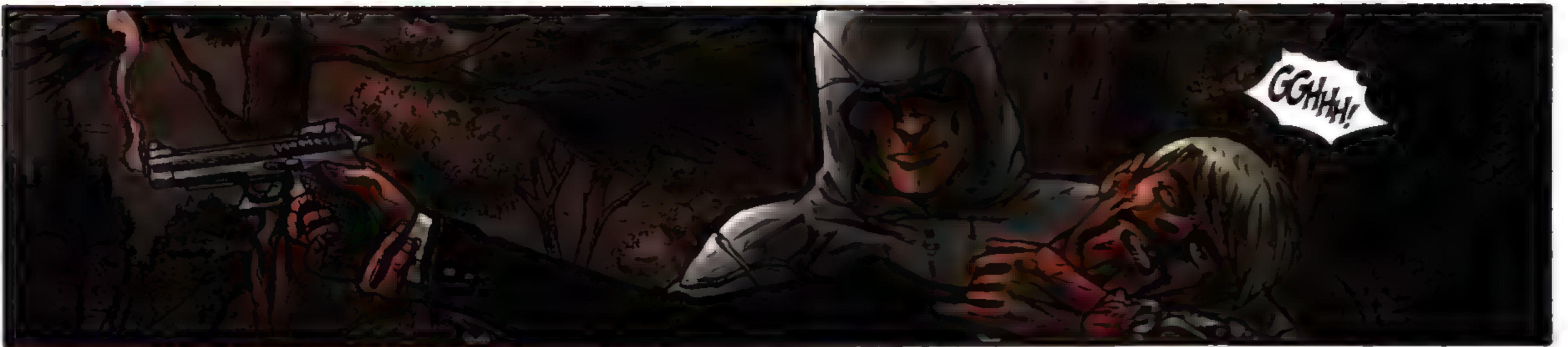
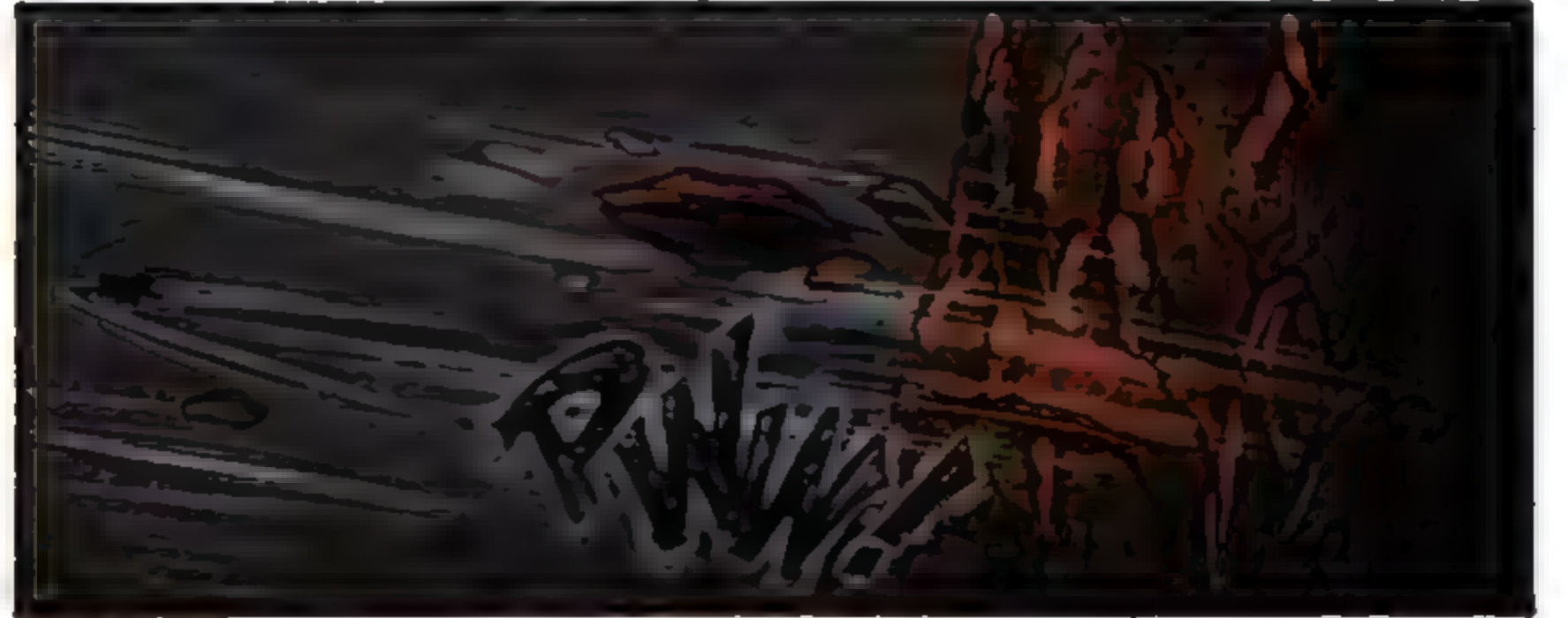
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME, LUCY?



WORRIED? NO, NOT REALLY. I JUST DON'T WANT OUR GREATEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL SUBJECT GETTING INJURED AT SUCH A PIVOTAL MOMENT.









PLEASE,
DESMOND....
STOP.

IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?



NO. IT'S JUST--I DON'T
KNOW IF THAT WAS
SUCH A GOOD IDEA..

SORRY, LUCY. I
DIDN'T MEAN TO
EMBARRASS YOU.



YOU DON'T HAVE
TO BE SORRY,
DESMOND. IT'S
JUST THAT...

I GUESS. I
MEAN--YEAH,
YOU'RE
PROBABLY
RIGHT.

WE'RE ASSASSINS, YOU
AND I. WE HAVE A MISSION
TO COMPLETE, IMPORTANT
INFORMATION TO COLLECT.
AND IT'S NEVER A GOOD
IDEA TO LET FEELINGS
GET IN THE WAY.



SO, WHO DO YOU
THINK THESE MEN
WERE? TEMPLARS?

COULD BE...



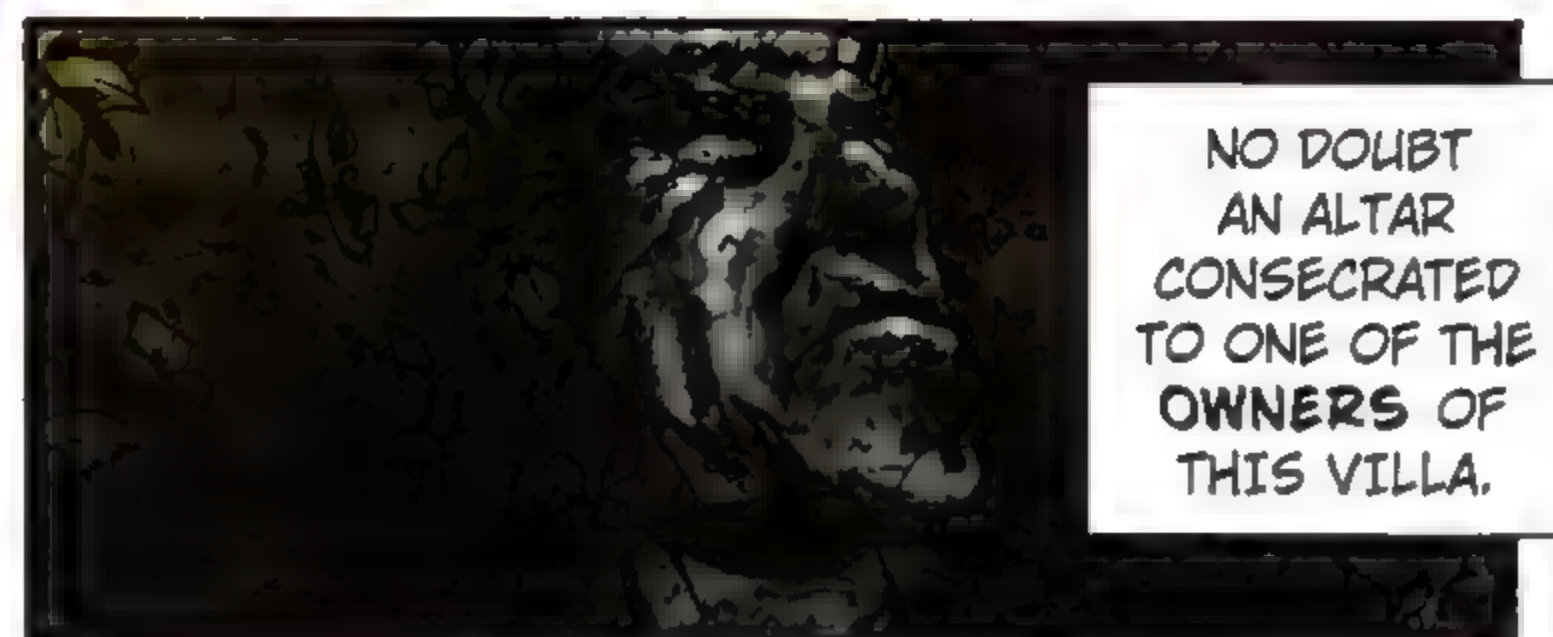
AND THIS?
HAVE YOU SEEN
IT BEFORE?

YEAH, I
NOTICED IT
WHEN WE
ARRIVED.



WHAT IS IT?

I DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT...



NO DOUBT
AN ALTAR
CONSECATED
TO ONE OF THE
OWNERS OF
THIS VILLA.



DO YOU THINK HE'S
HAD LONG ENOUGH
TO REST?

HMMM.
MENTALLY, HE
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO HANDLE IT.

BUT I'VE INJECTED
HIM WITH A DOSE OF
ATROPINE SO HIS
HEART CAN WITHSTAND
THE PRESSURE WE'RE
PUTTING ON IT.

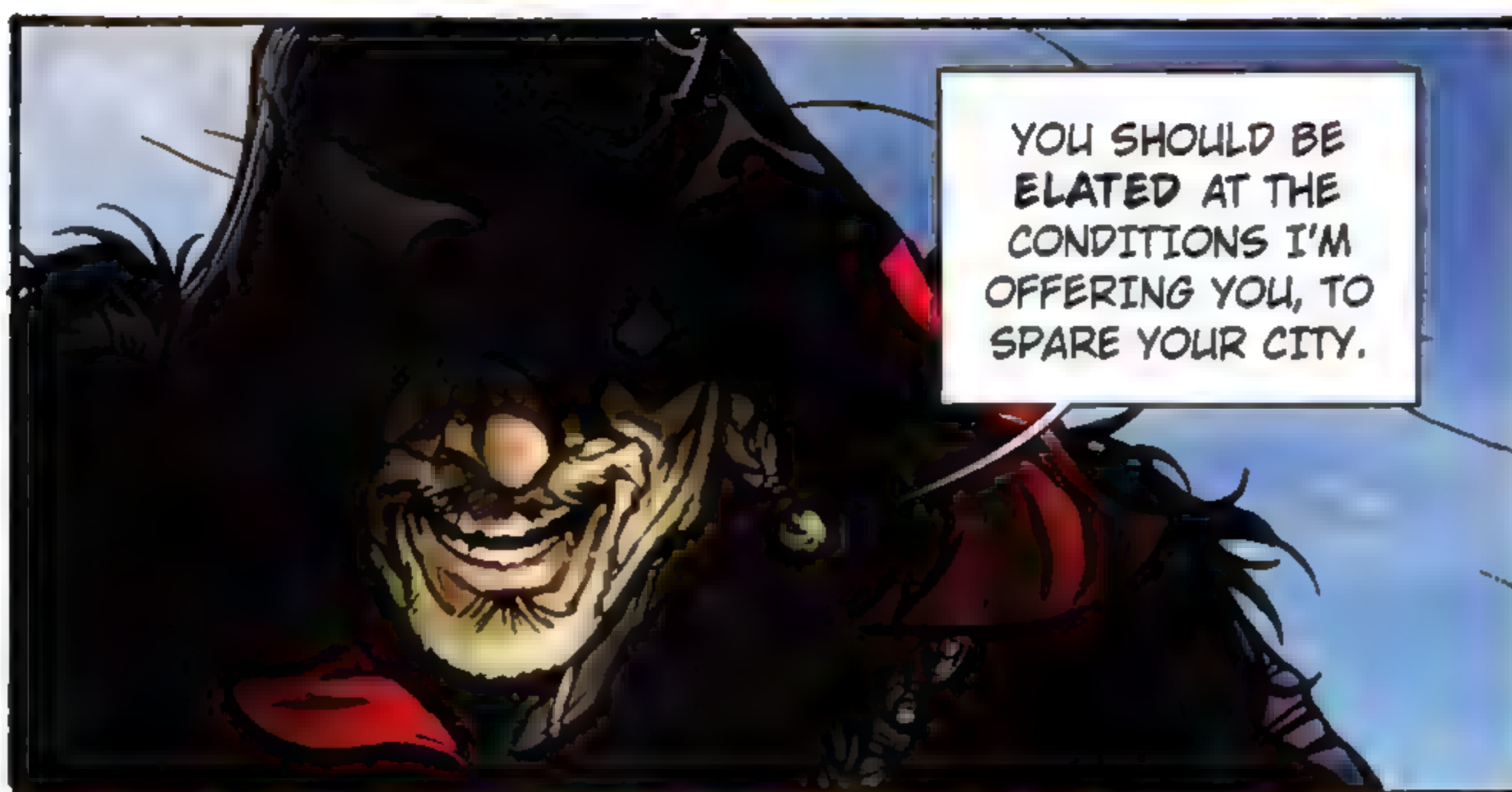


"WHERE IS HE?"

"STILL IN 279AD...
SOMEWHERE ON
THE UPLAND WHICH
OVERLOOKS LUGDUNUM,
THE GALLISH
CAPITAL..."



PEACE HAS
NO PRICE,
PREFECT!



YOU SHOULD BE
ELATED AT THE
CONDITIONS I'M
OFFERING YOU, TO
SPARE YOUR CITY.



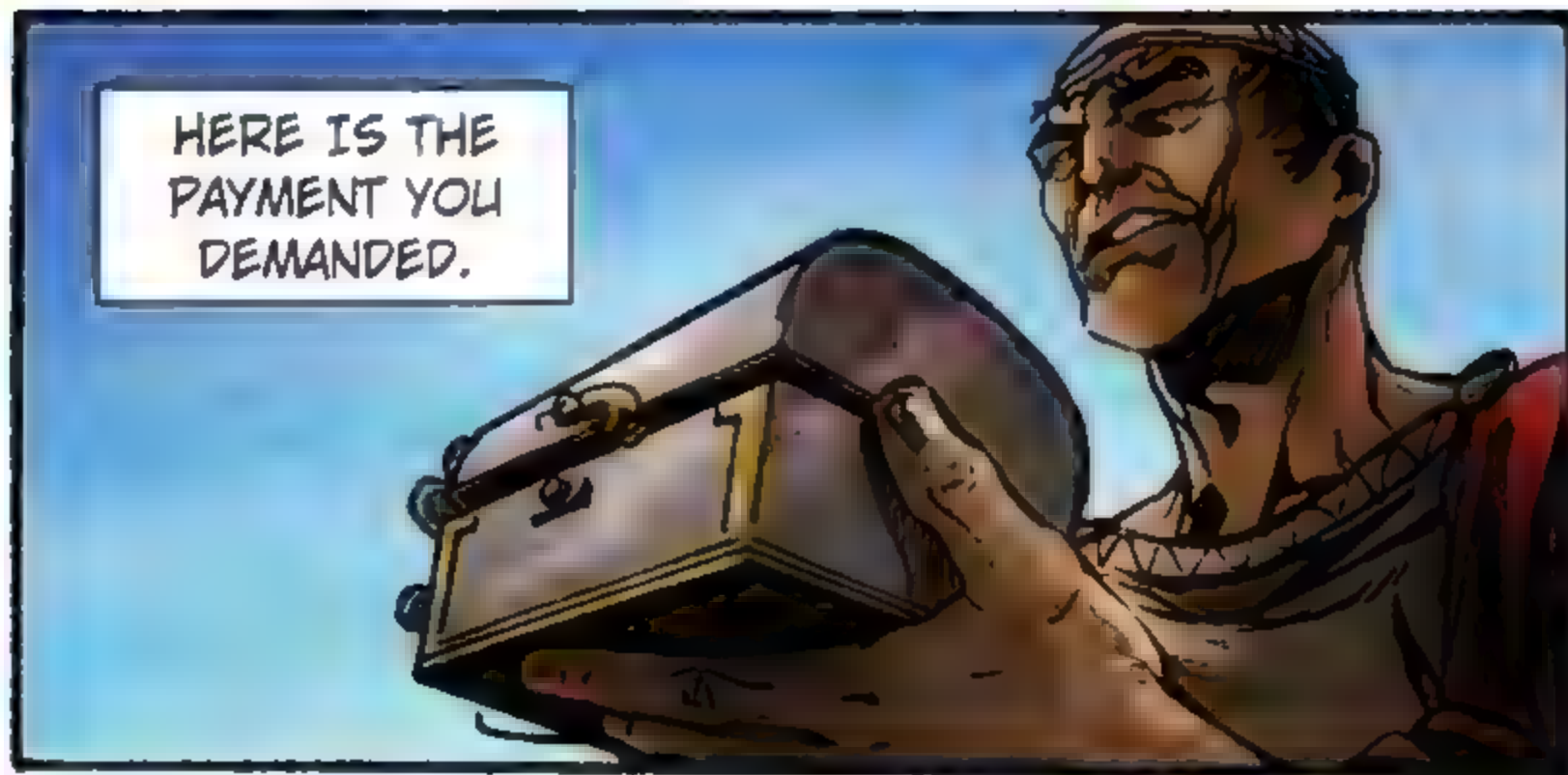
IF I UNDERSTAND
YOU CORRECTLY,
BARBARIAN, PEACE
DOES INDEED HAVE A
PRICE. AND IT IS AN
EXTORTIONATE ONE!



AS YOU WISH. OUR TROOPS ARE BUT A STONE'S THROW AWAY. I CAN EASILY GIVE THE ORDER TO ATTACK!



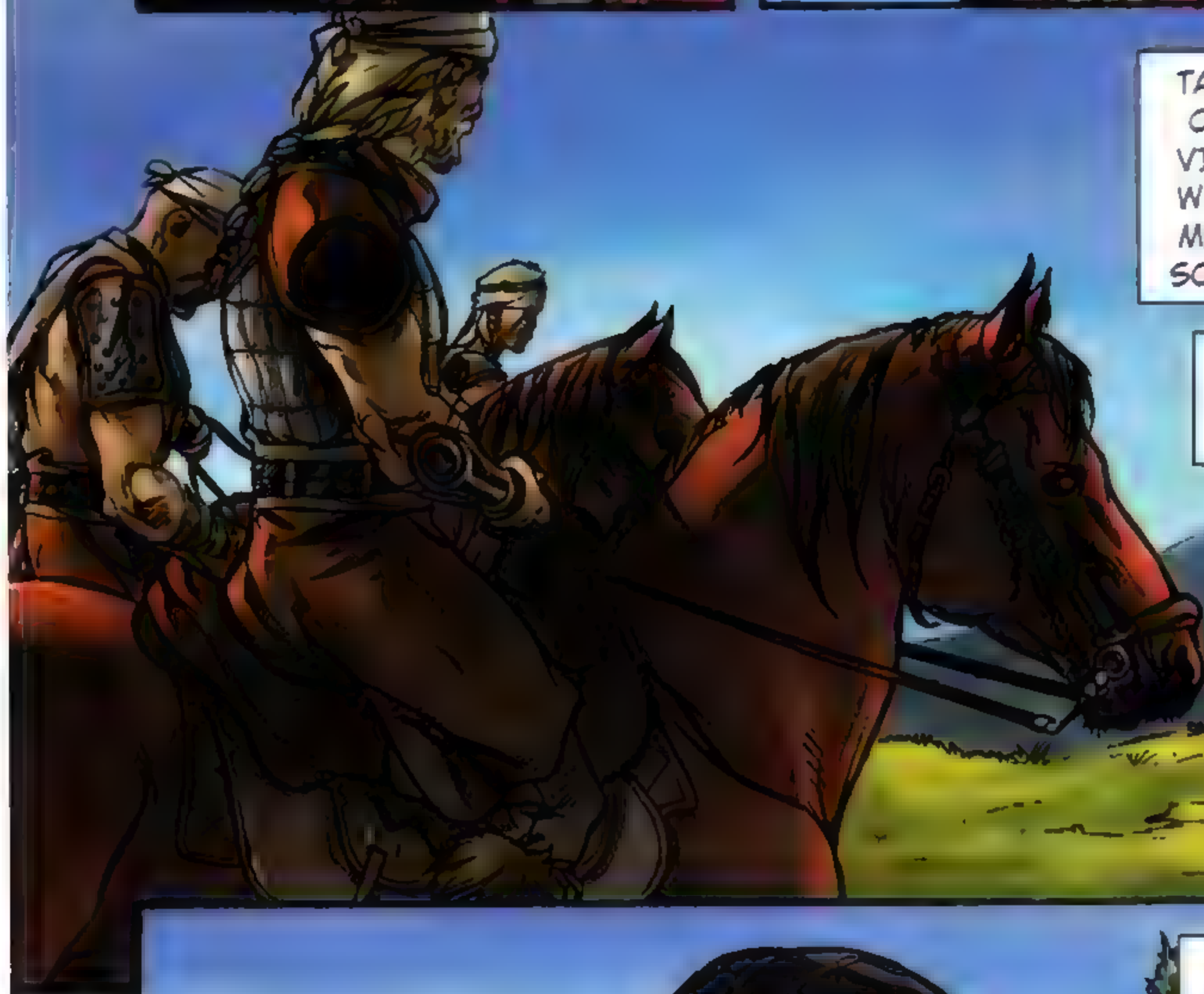
HOLD BACK YOUR FLEA-RIDDEN HORDES...



HERE IS THE PAYMENT YOU DEMANDED.



YOU HAVE MADE A WISE DECISION, PREFECT.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE SMALL VICTORIES! ROME WILL ENSURE YOU MEET YOUR END-- SOONER OR LATER!

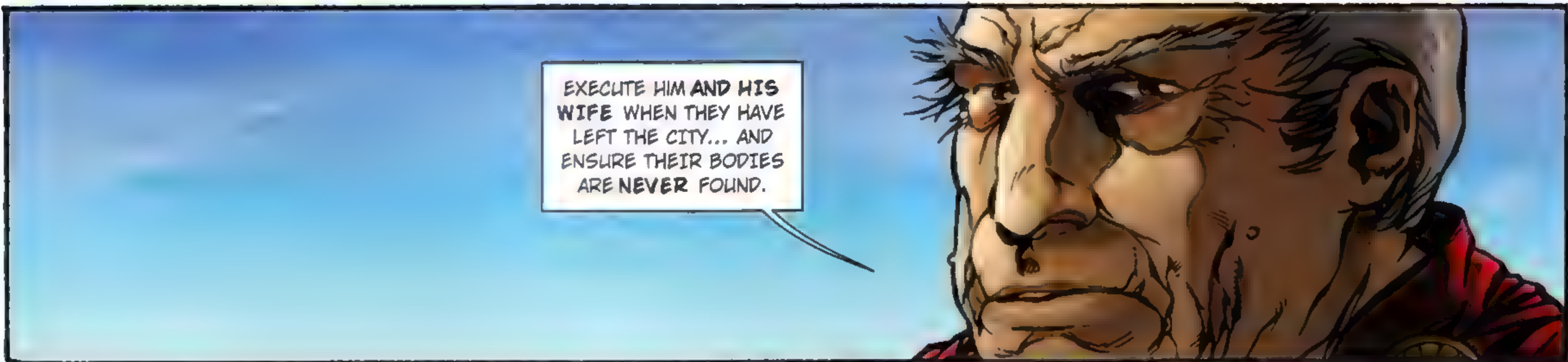
WE WILL SEE ABOUT THAT.



PREFECT, EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE FOR US TO ARREST AQUILUS.

?!

PERFECT!



EXECUTE HIM AND HIS WIFE WHEN THEY HAVE LEFT THE CITY... AND ENSURE THEIR BODIES ARE NEVER FOUND.

SHARE THE PAYMENT
FROM THESE COWARDS
BETWEEN YOURSELVES.
DISTRIBUTE MY SHARE
AMONGST THE MEN.

YOUR GENEROSITY
WILL BE REWARDED
ONE DAY, ACCIPITER!



ON THIS NIGHT,
WE HAVE ANOTHER
VICTORY TO
CELEBRATE--AN EASY
VICTORY! HAHHAH!



RETURN TO CAMP
AND BEGIN YOUR
CELEBRATIONS
WITHOUT ME.



WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

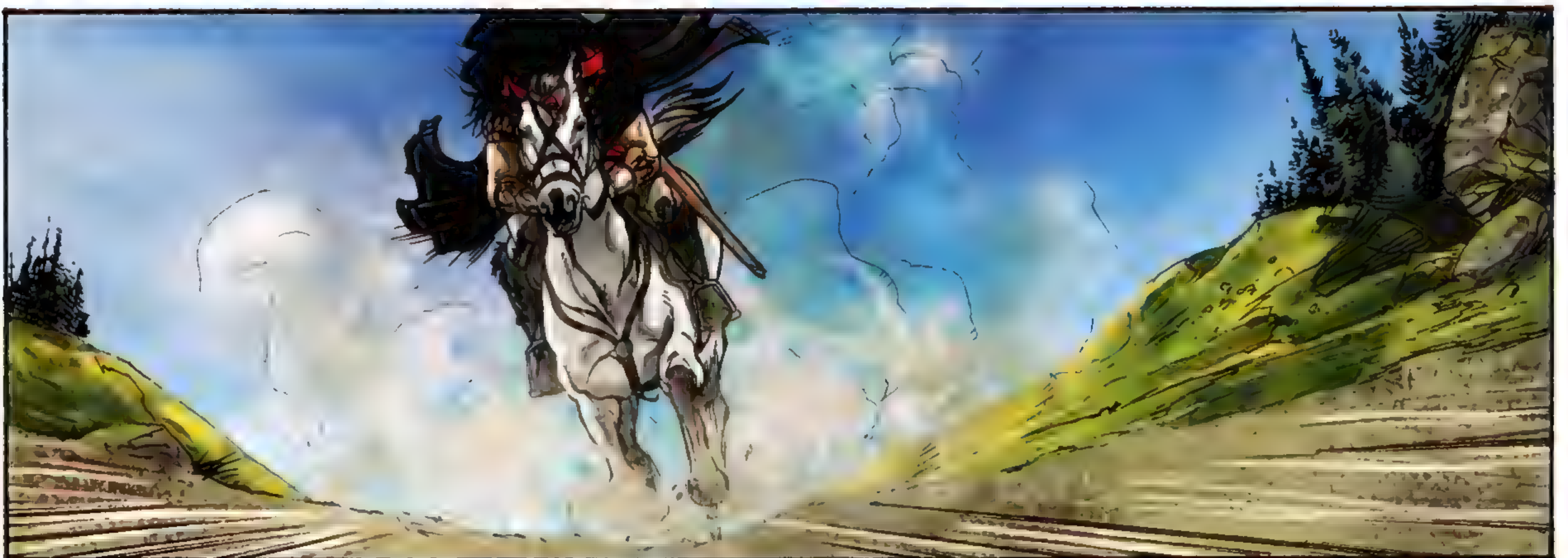


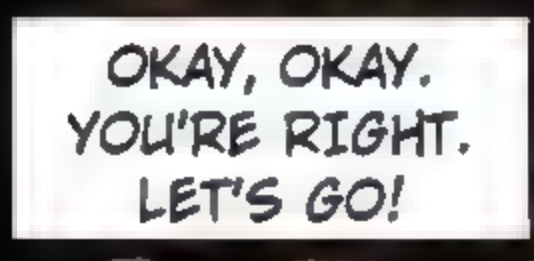
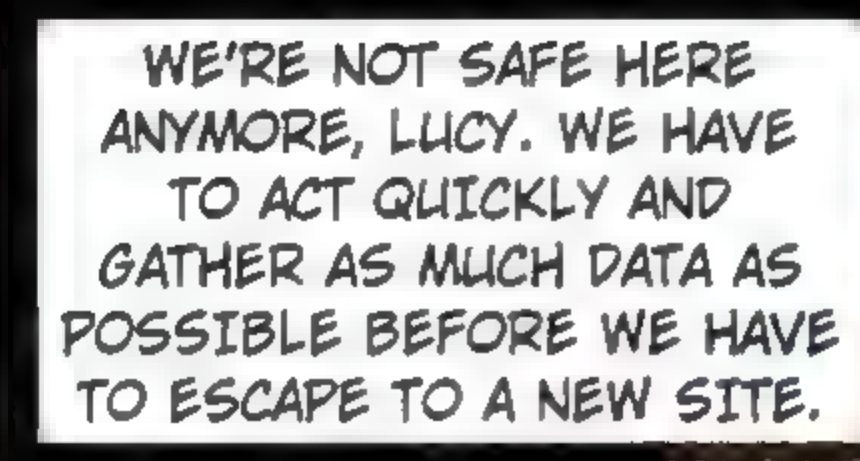
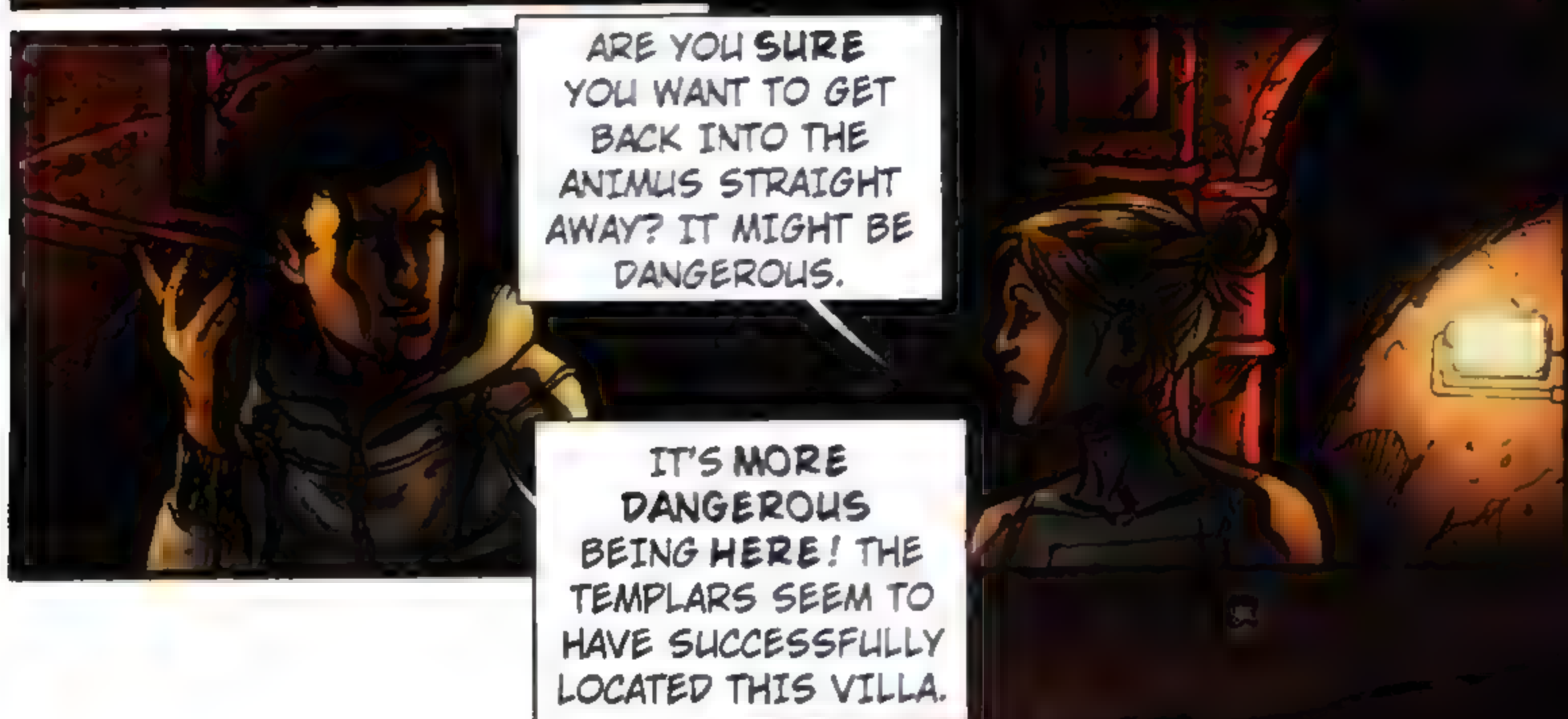
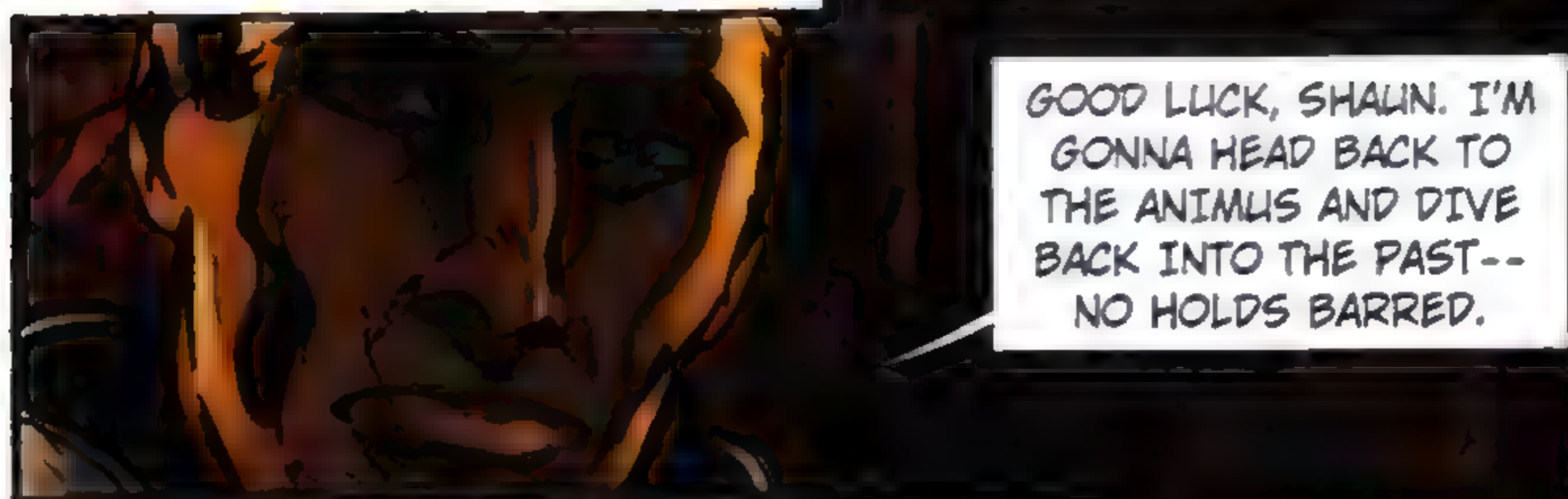
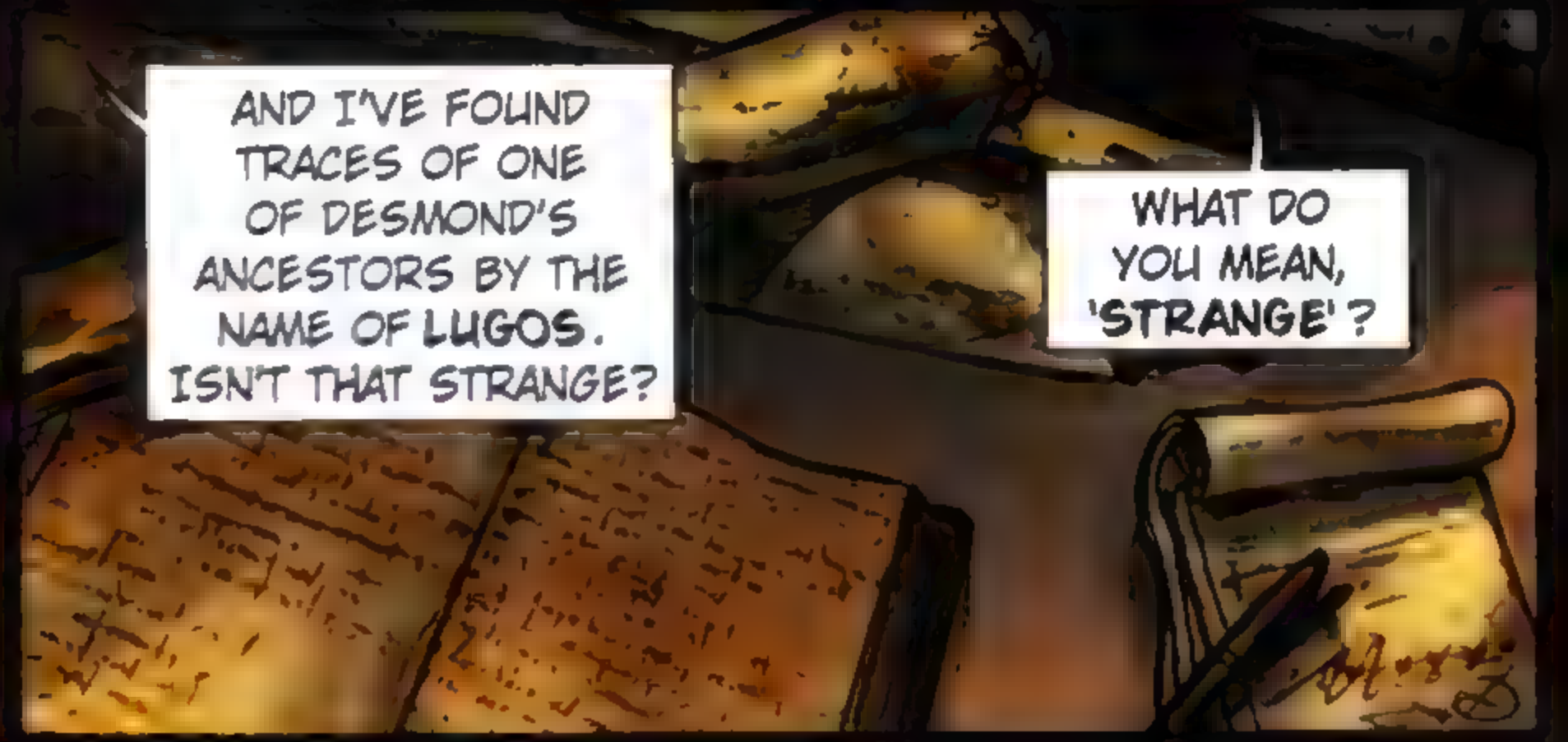
TO LUGDUNUM.

HA HA! TO SULLY
THE HONOR OF
A WOMAN?



TO SAVE
THE LIFE
OF A MAN.







YOU STILL HAVEN'T REVEALED THE TRUE VALUE OF THIS OBJECT, AQUILUS.



I KNOW, VALERIA, I KNOW. I AM STILL STRUGGLING TO CONVINCE MYSELF WHAT IT REPRESENTS.

SURELY IT IS SIMPLY A CROSS?



BUT IT'S NO ORDINARY CROSS. THIS ANKH BELONGED TO THE GODDESS ISIS. IT'S THE SYMBOL OF ETERNITY.

THIS OBJECT IS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT.

A LINE BETWEEN THE DEAD AND THE LIVING!



ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT, THANKS TO THIS OBJECT, DEAD BODIES ARE GOING TO COME ALIVE AND HAUNT US? THAT'S HORRIFYING!

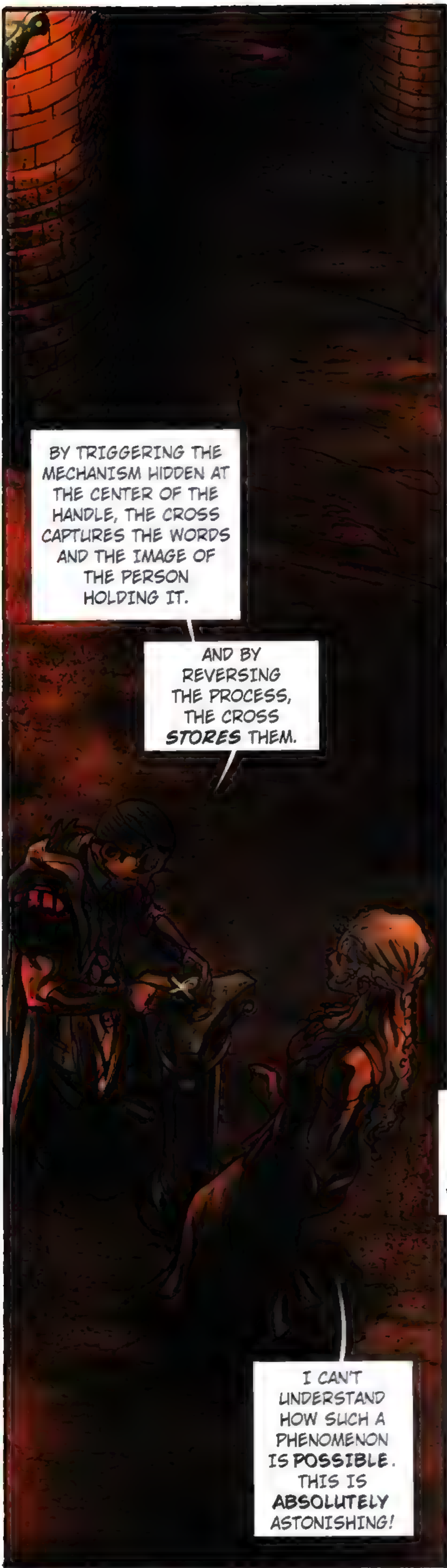


NO, VALERIA, DO NOT WORRY. NO SPECTRE WILL SUDDENLY APPEAR BEFORE US!



I THOUGHT THAT FOR A MOMENT, TOO! BUT LUCIUS MAINTAINED THAT THE LINK IS MORE SYMBOLIC.





BY TRIGGERING THE MECHANISM HIDDEN AT THE CENTER OF THE HANDLE, THE CROSS CAPTURES THE WORDS AND THE IMAGE OF THE PERSON HOLDING IT.

AND BY REVERSING THE PROCESS, THE CROSS STORES THEM.

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH A PHENOMENON IS POSSIBLE. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY ASTONISHING!



YES. BUT, ALAS, THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE INNER WORKINGS OF THIS OBJECT HAS BEEN LOST.

A SCIENCE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING SUCH A MIRACLE COULD ONLY BE THE WORK OF THE GODS.



THE GODS DO NOT EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, VALERIA. IT APPEARS THERE WAS A CIVILIZATION WHICH PRECEDED OURS. A GLITTERING CIVILIZATION, ITS TECHNOLOGIES FAR ADVANCED BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING. NO TRACE OF IT EXISTS TODAY—



SAVE SOME OBJECTS.

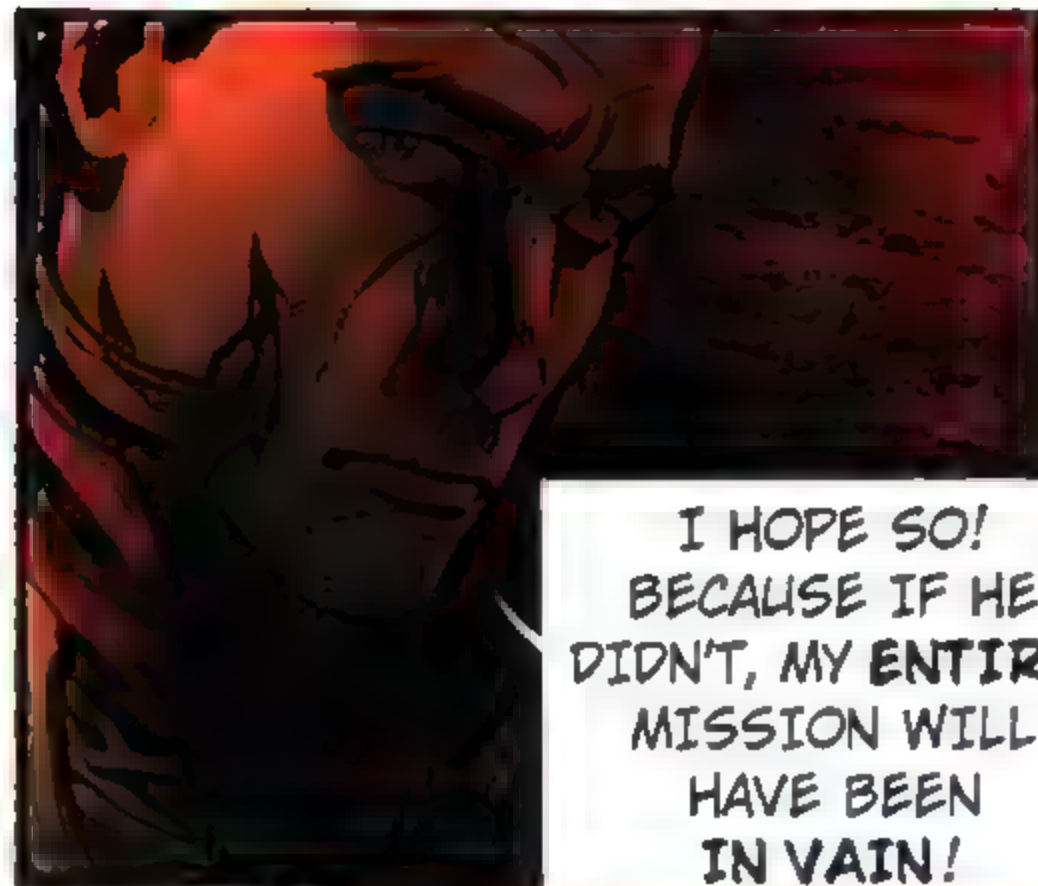


DID LUCIUS TELL YOU WHAT PURPOSE HE ANTICIPATED FOR THE ANKH?

NO. HE SHOWED ME HOW TO USE IT, BUT HE DIED BEFORE TELLING ME WHY HE NEEDED IT.

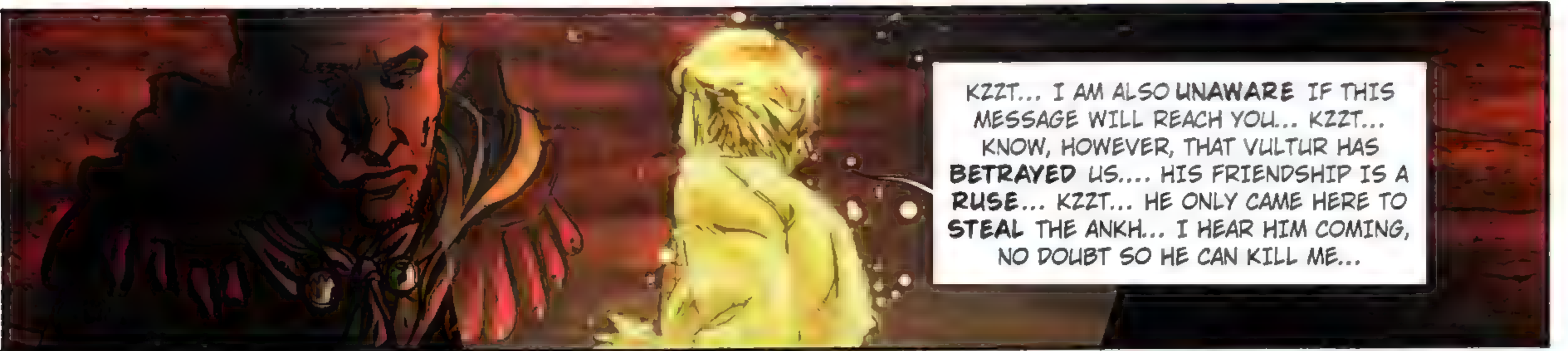
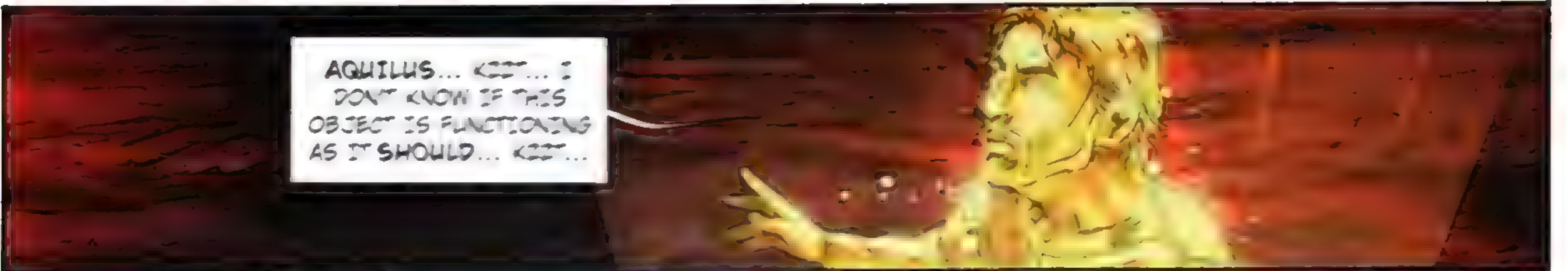
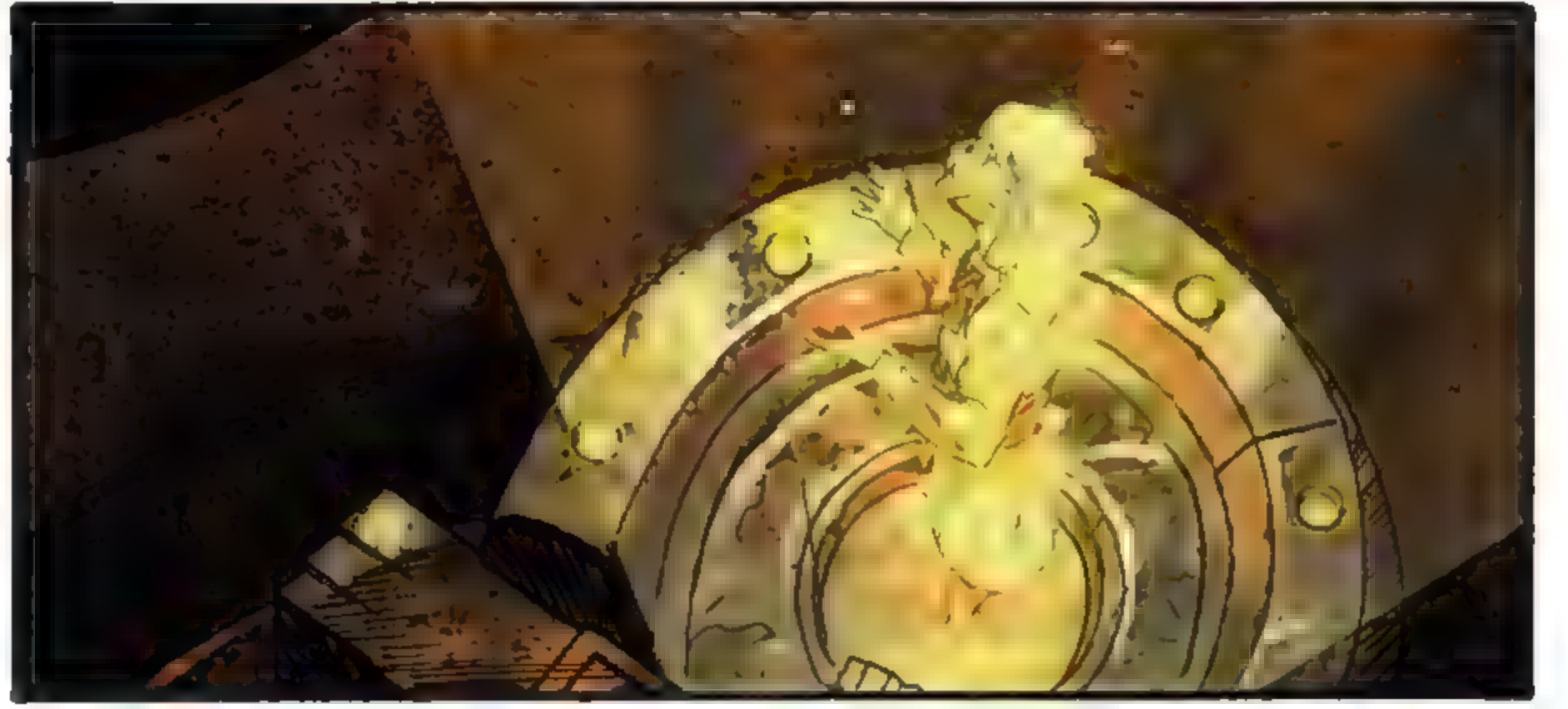
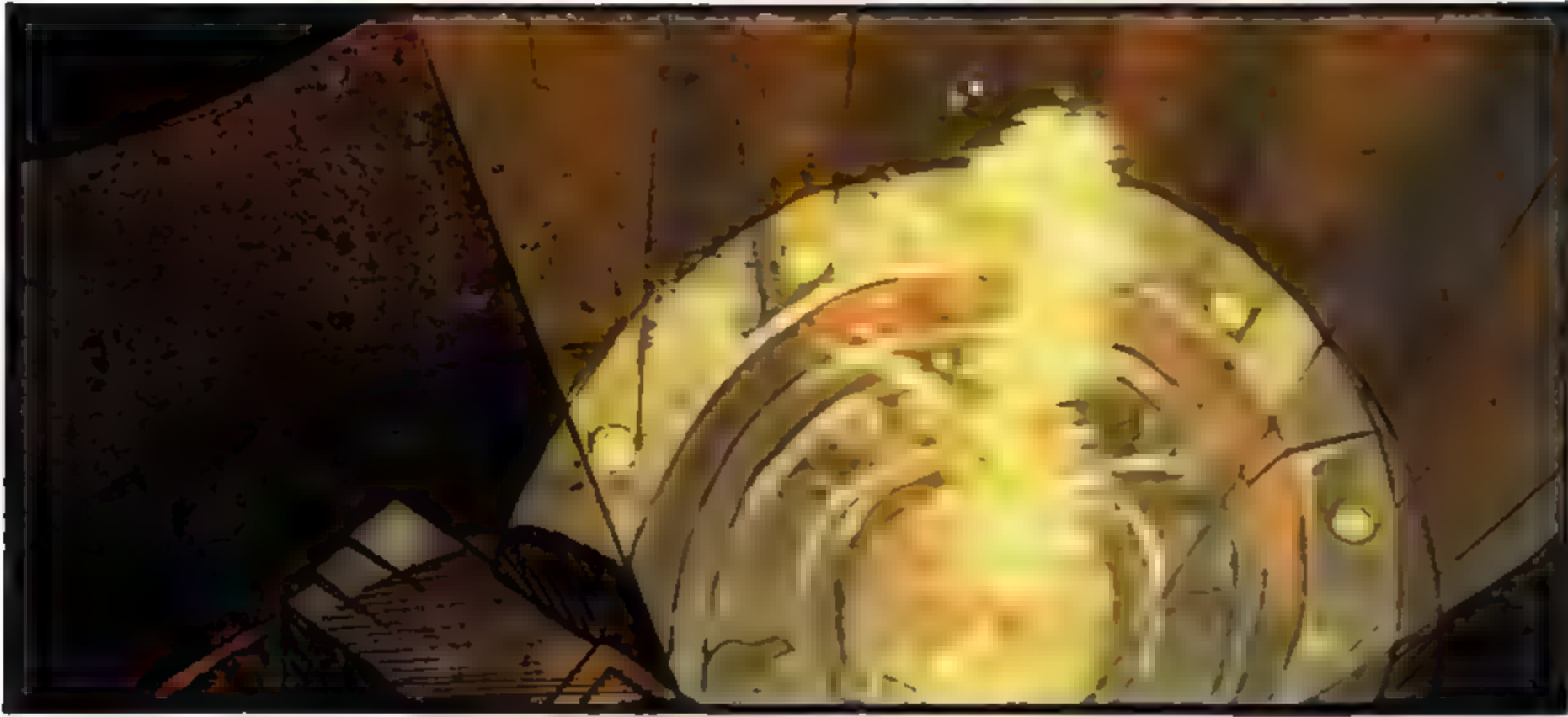
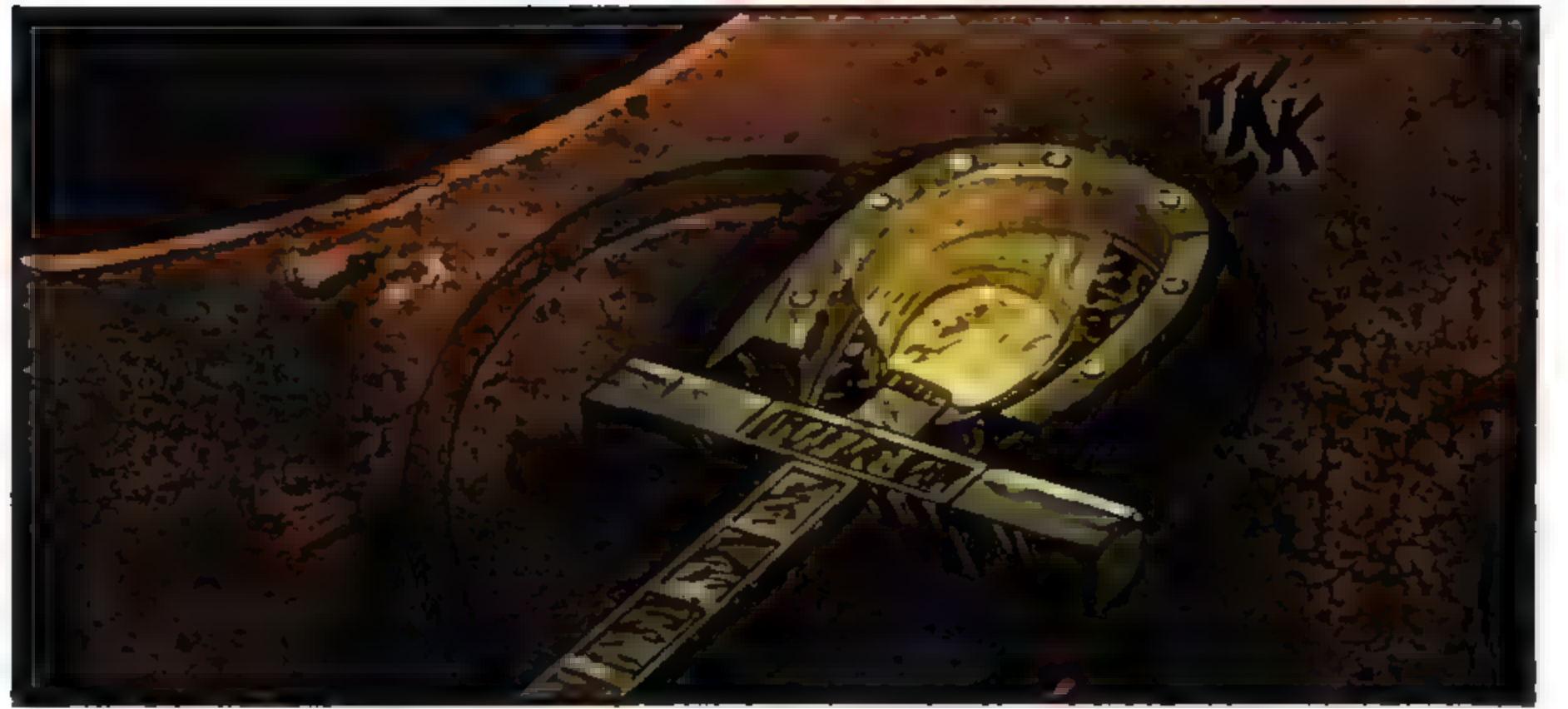
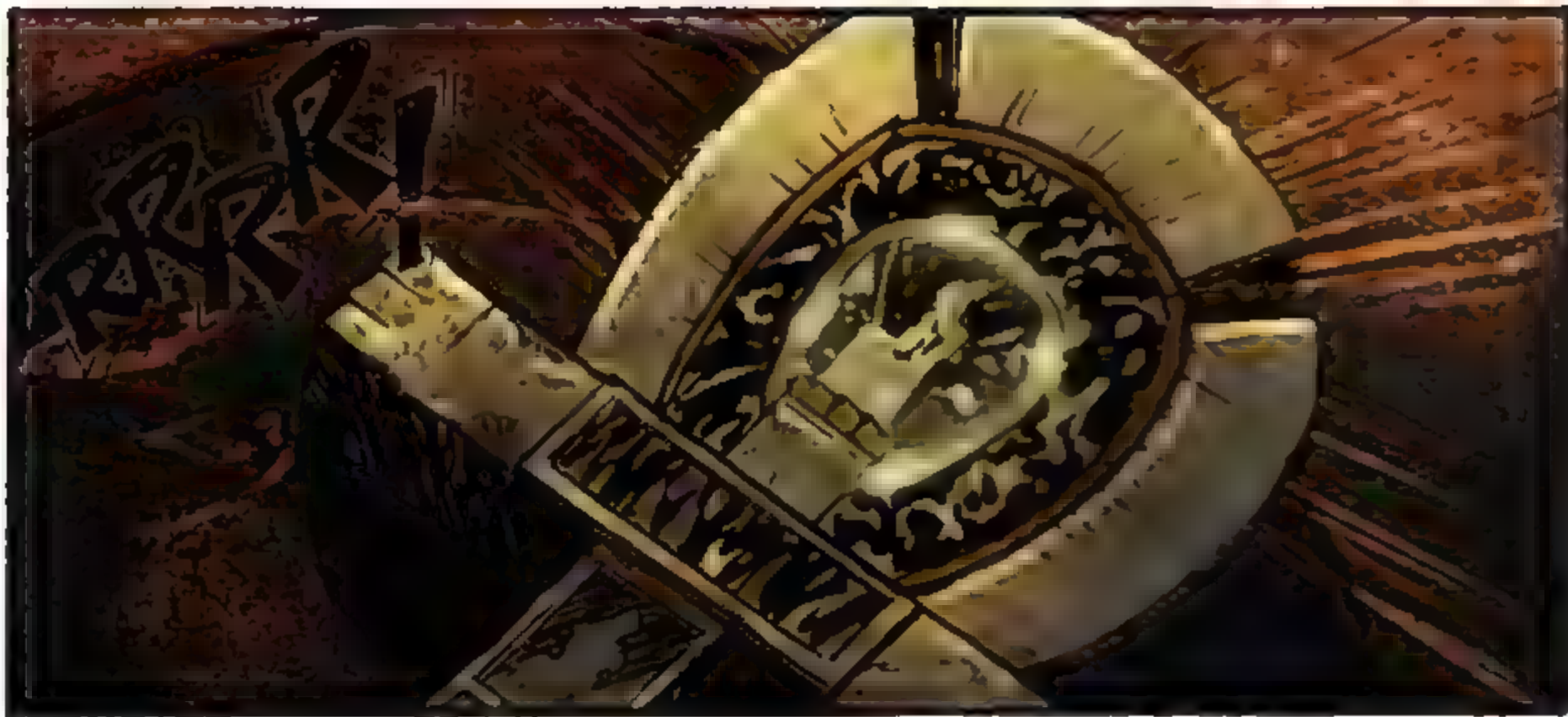


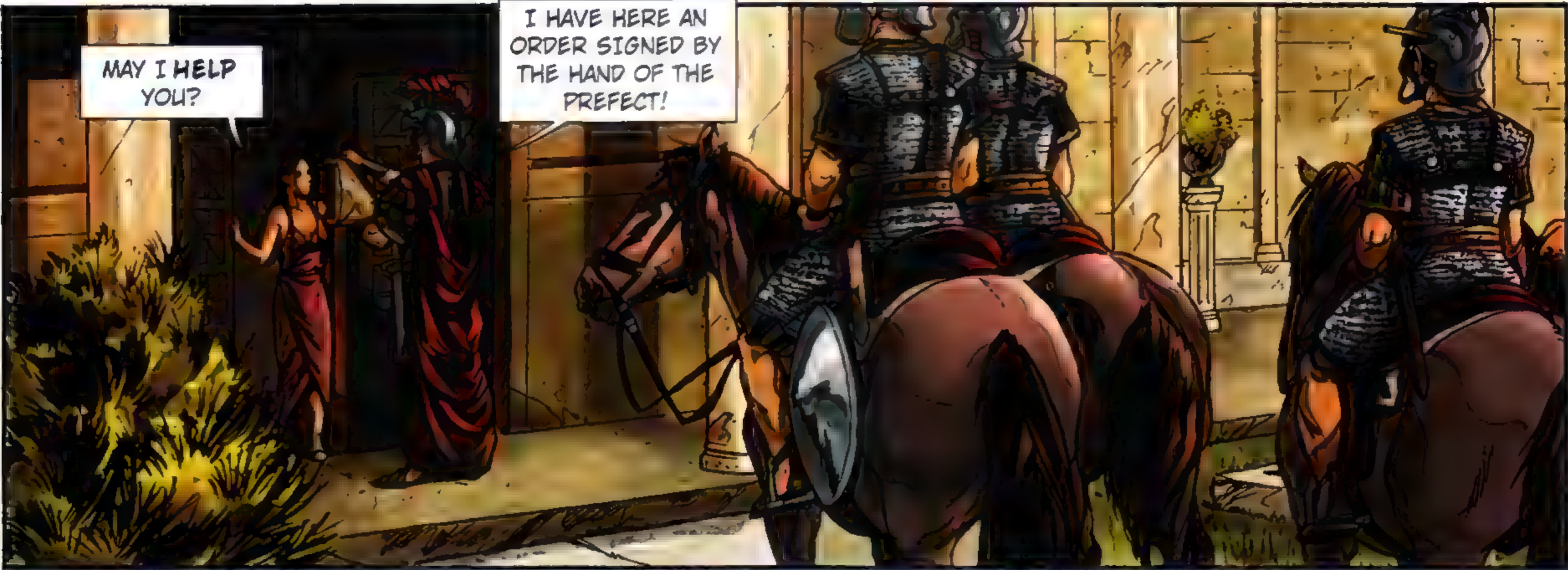
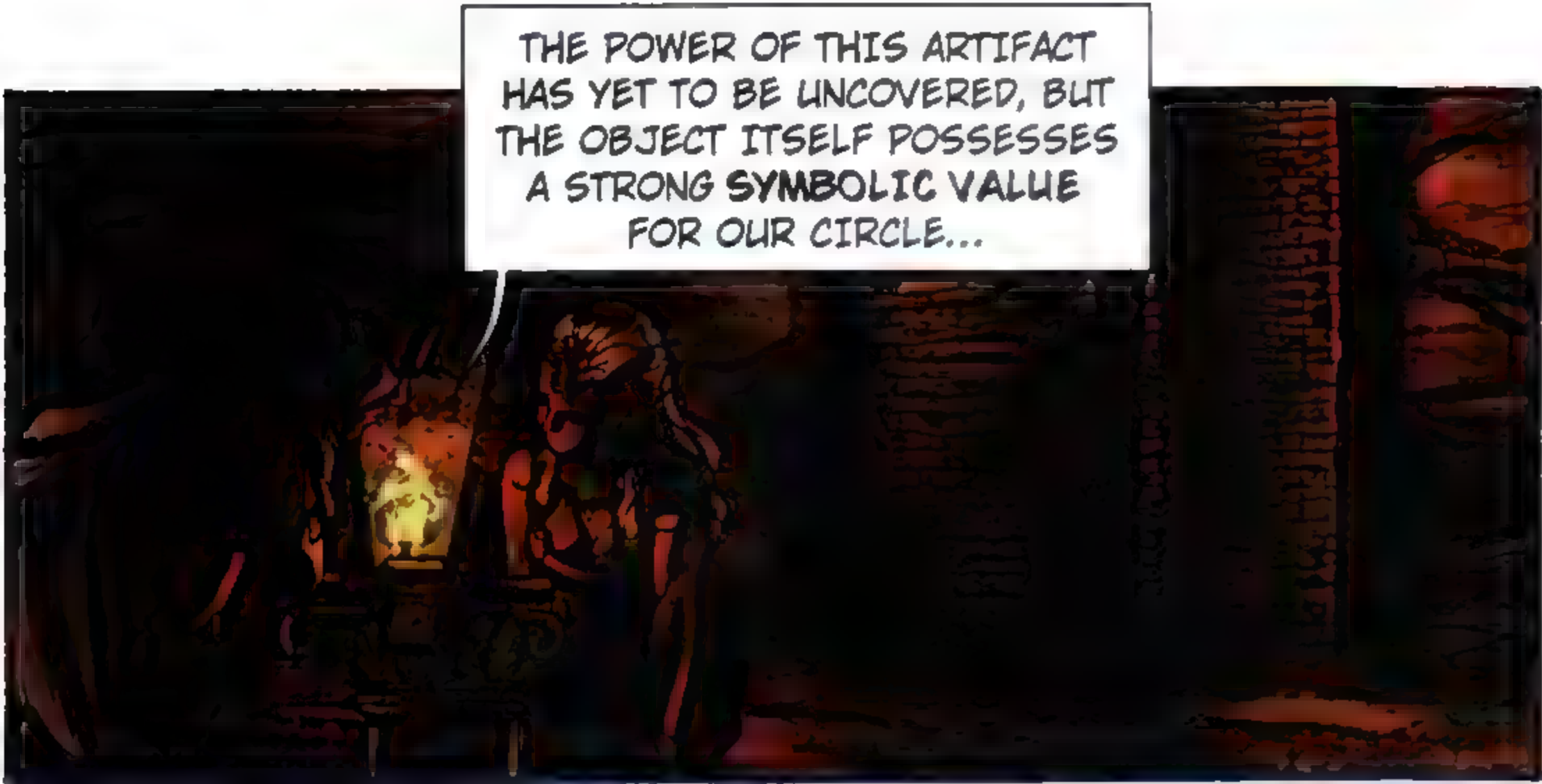
AND YOU THINK THAT HE LEFT A MESSAGE INTENDED FOR YOU?



I HOPE SO! BECAUSE IF HE DIDN'T, MY ENTIRE MISSION WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!









AQUILLUS HASN'T
DONE ANYTHING
WRONG --

THAT IS NOT FOR
YOU TO JUDGE!
OUT OF THE WAY!



WHERE IS HE?

AT THE
BACK... IN
THE CRYPT.



LEAD US
THERE!



I AM SORRY,
MASTER.

WHO GAVE YOU
PERMISSION TO
ENTER MY HOME?

AQUILLUS, SON OF
LUCIUS--BY THE
ORDER OF ROME,
YOU ARE UNDER
ARREST! GIVE
YOURSELF UP!



I WILL GIVE
MYSELF UP
WHEN YOU TELL
ME WHAT I AM
ACCUSED OF!



YOU
ASSASSINATED
FAUSTINUS,
THE BISHOP OF
LUGDUNUM!

EVERY MEMBER OF
HIS HOUSE STAFF
SAW YOU COMMIT
THIS CRIME AND
THEY ARE PREPARED
TO TESTIFY
AGAINST YOU.

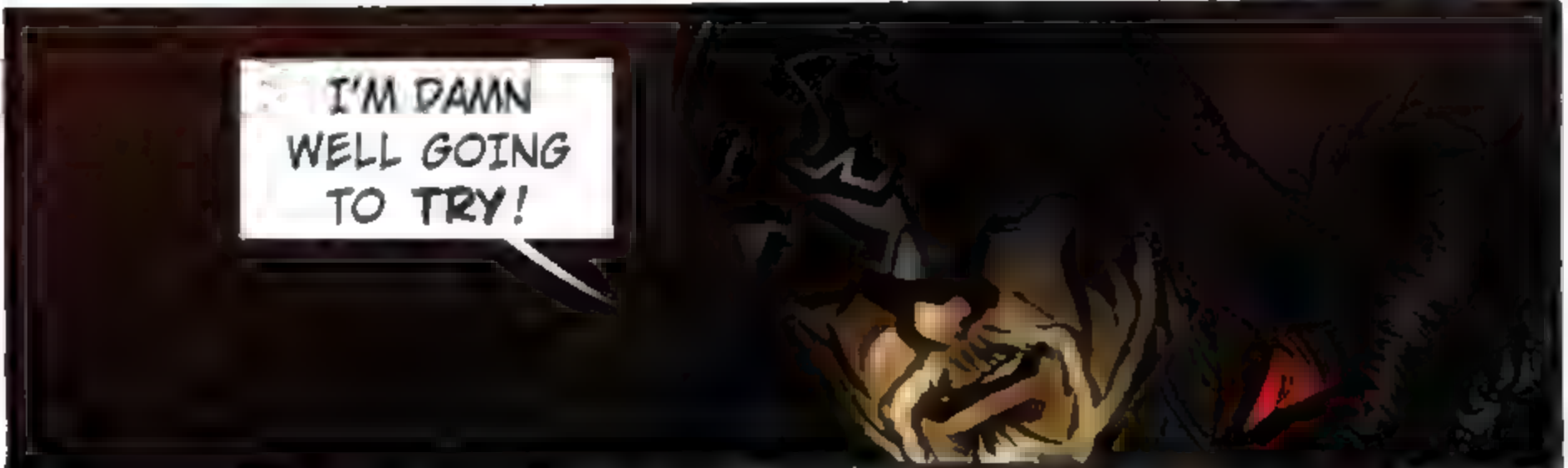
I DO NOT DENY COMMITTING
THIS CRIME. THAT PIG WAS A
TRAITOR! BUT IF YOU WANT TO
ARREST ME, YOU WILL HAVE TO
COME AND FIND ME FIRST!

GRAB HOLD
OF HIM!


PICK HIM UP
AND TIE HIM.




TWO HOURS LATER...



ROANNE, LOIR, FRANCE.




SEVERAL HOURS
LATER, FAR
FROM LUGDUNUM.

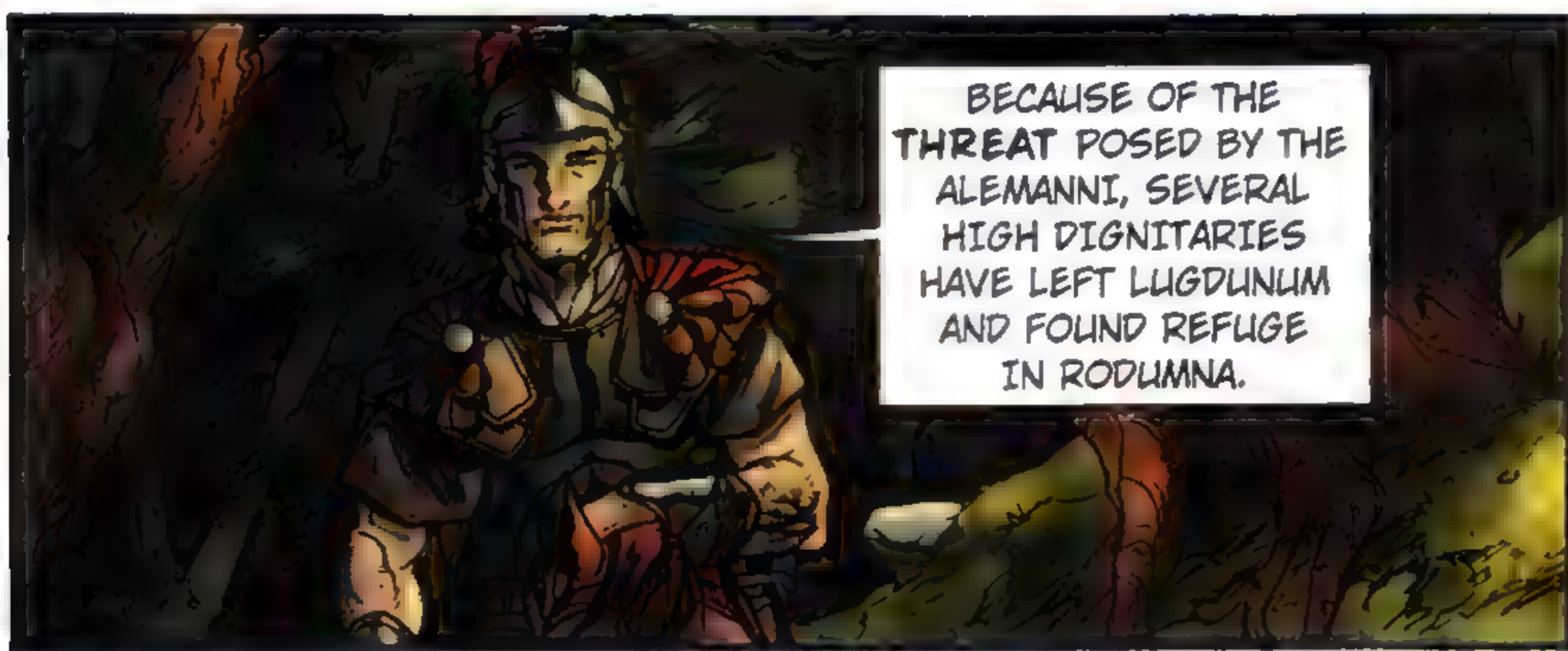


WHY ARE YOU
TAKING US TO
RODUMNA?


OUR ORDERS ARE TO
ESCORT YOU THERE,
GAUL, NOT TO MAKE
CONVERSATION!



YOU'VE CAPTURED
US AND TIED US UP!
AT LEAST HAVE THE
DECENCY TO INFORM
US OF THE PURPOSE
OF OUR JOURNEY!



BECAUSE OF THE
THREAT POSED BY THE
ALEMANNI, SEVERAL
HIGH DIGNITARIES
HAVE LEFT LUGDUNUM
AND FOUND REFUGE
IN RODUMNA.



YOU WILL
BE TRIED BY
THEM THERE.



TRIED?

YES! AND WE WILL
ALSO HAND OVER THE
STRANGE OBJECT WE
FOUND IN THE CELLAR
OF YOUR VILLA.



I AM SURE THAT THEY
WILL VERY INTERESTED.



EUGH!



TAKE COVER!
WE'RE BEING
ATTACKED!

KILL THE
PRISONERS!
KILL THEM!



AARGH!



DIE, YOU
ASSASSIN DOG!



AAAAH!!



WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

AQUILUS
IS DEAD!

NOOOOOO!!



THE VIOLENT SHOCK
HAS ECHOED AS FAR
BACK AS DESMOND'S
CEREBRAL CORTEX!

I'VE
DISCONNECTED
EVERYTHING!

MY GOD...



DESMOND?
HOW ARE YOU
FEELING?

I... I'M
OKAY...



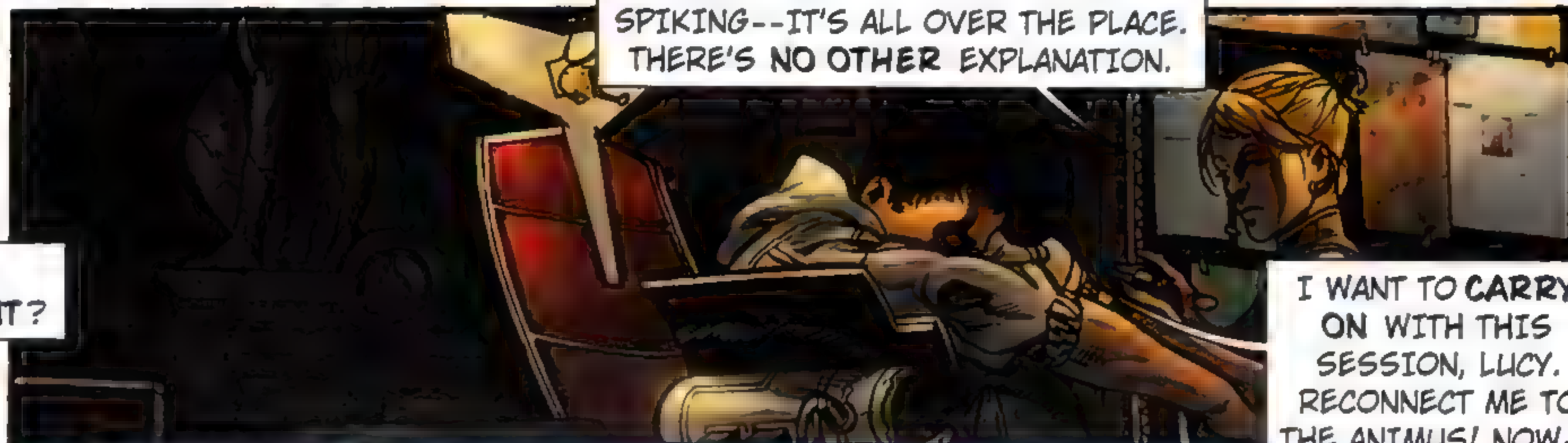
THE DEATH OF YOUR ANCESTRAL
SUBJECT SEEMS TO HAVE
AUTOMATICALLY SEVERED THE
CONNECTION BETWEEN THE
PAST AND THE PRESENT.

THAT'S WHAT WAS
MEANT TO HAPPEN.
GUYS, I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO TELL YOU
THIS. I... I THINK
THAT VALERIA IS
PREGNANT.

SHE HAS TO BE! THE DATA IS
SPIKING--IT'S ALL OVER THE PLACE.
THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION.



SHE'S
PREGNANT?

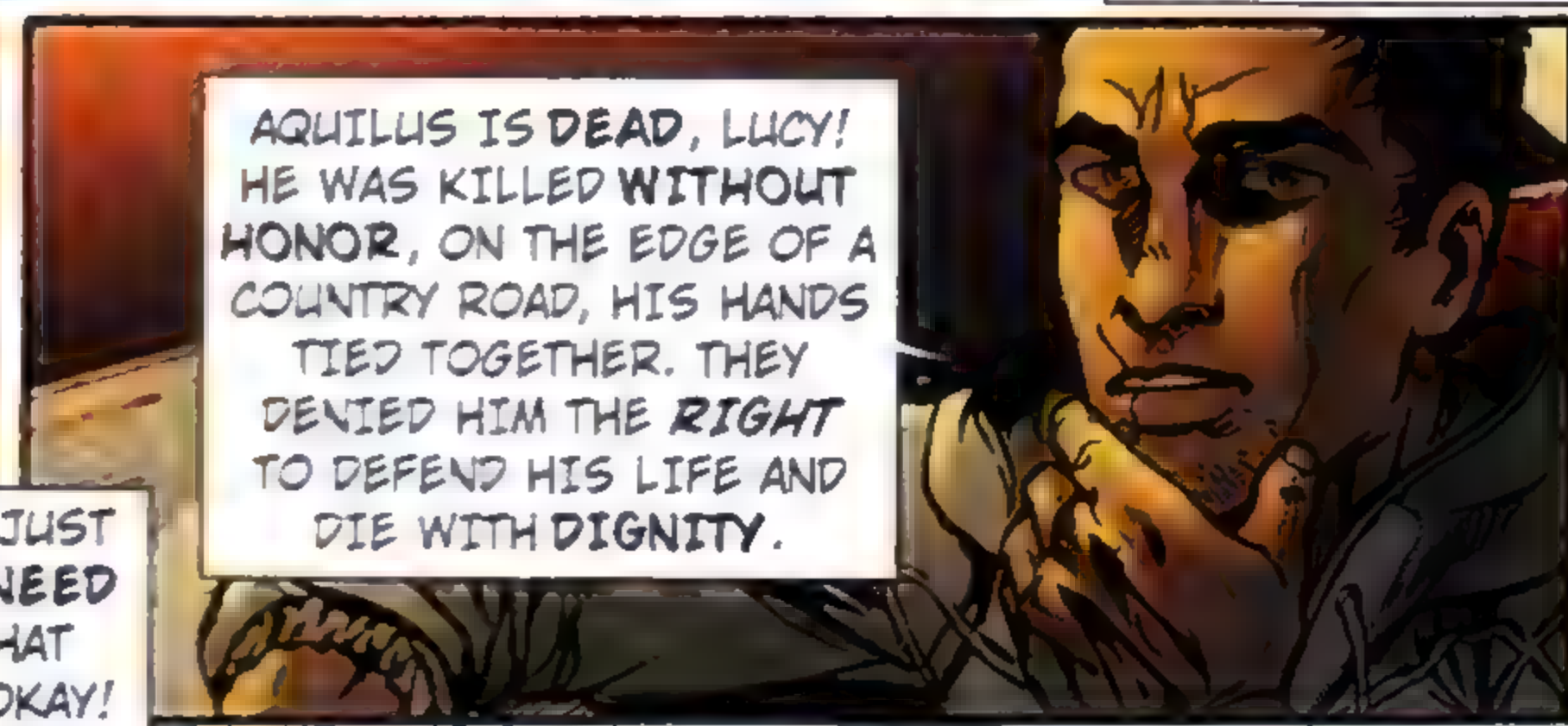


I WANT TO CARRY
ON WITH THIS
SESSION, LUCY.
RECONNECT ME TO
THE ANIMUS! NOW--



OUT OF THE
QUESTION! YOU
HAVE TO REST,
DESMOND!

AFTER WHAT JUST
HAPPENED, I NEED
TO KNOW THAT
VALERIA IS OKAY!



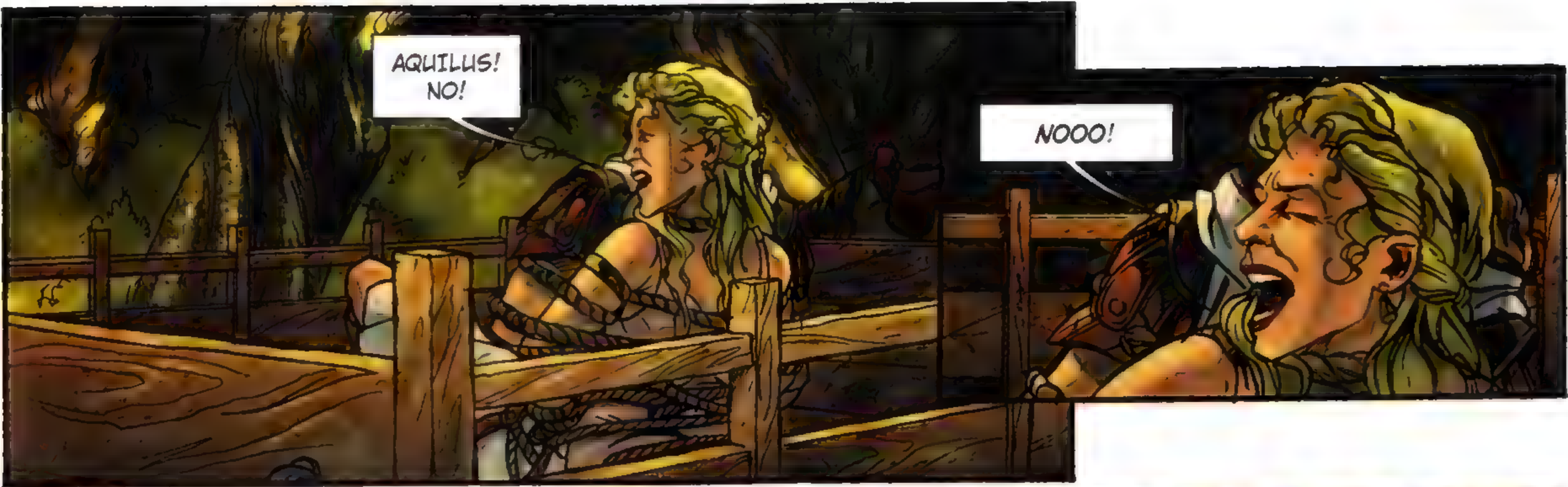
AQUILUS IS DEAD, LUCY!
HE WAS KILLED WITHOUT
HONOR, ON THE EDGE OF A
COUNTRY ROAD, HIS HANDS
TIED TOGETHER. THEY
DENIED HIM THE *RIGHT*
TO DEFEND HIS LIFE AND
DIE WITH DIGNITY.

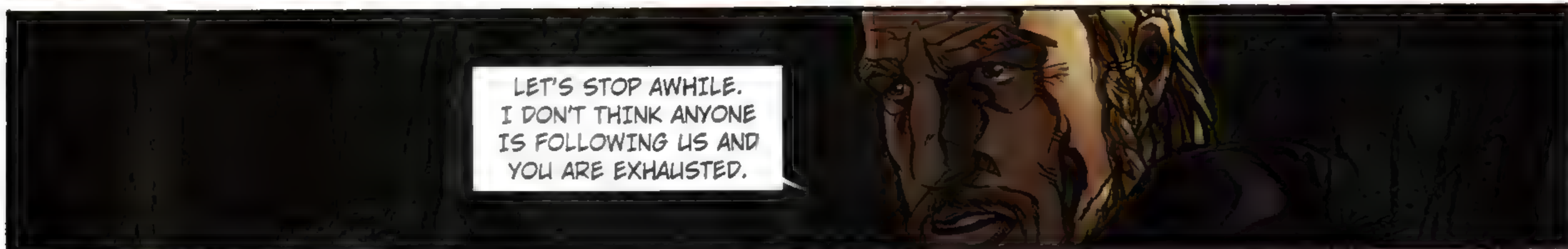
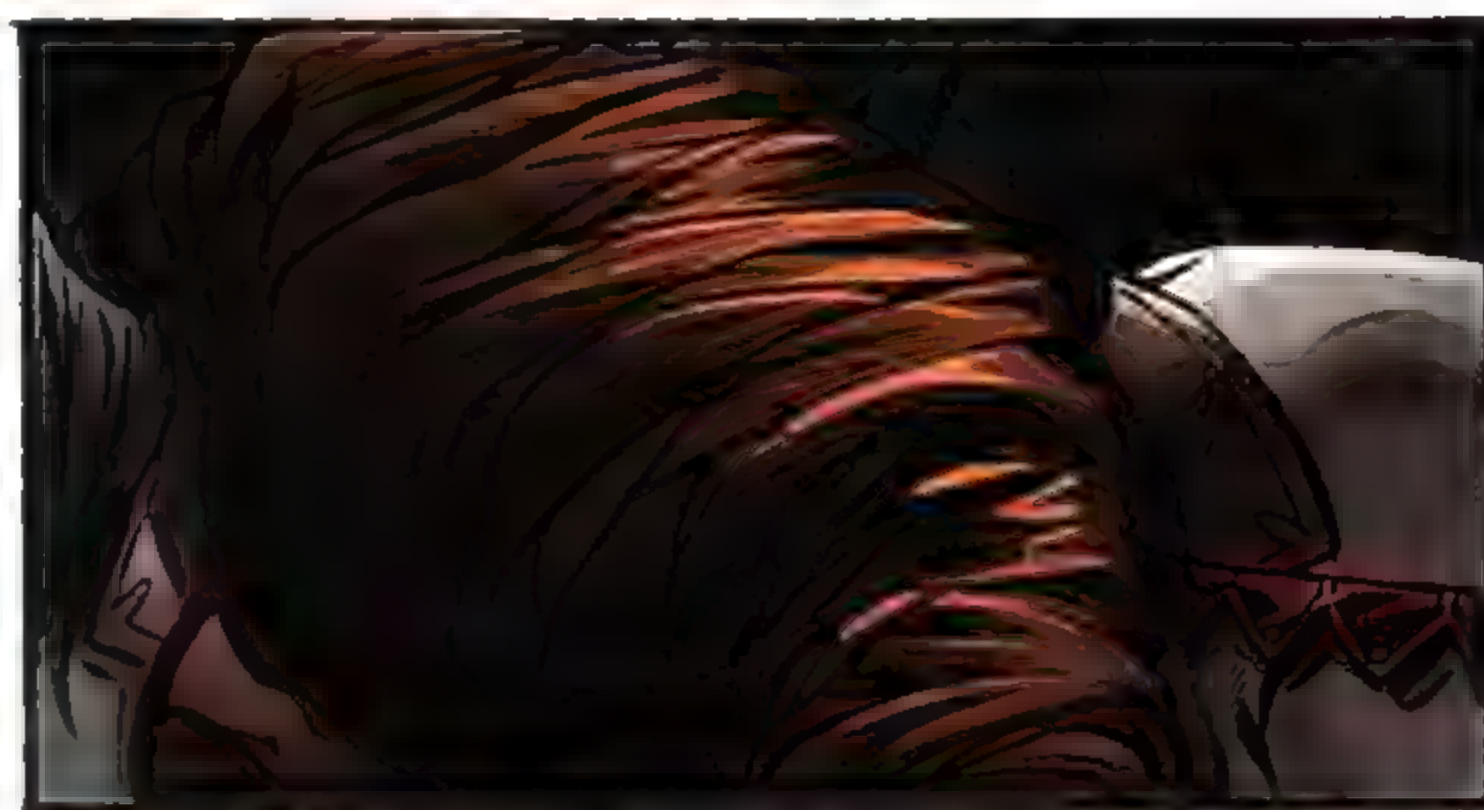



MY ANCESTOR WAS
KILLED LIKE AN
ANIMAL! BUT I
REFUSE TO BELIEVE
THAT HE WAS KILLED
FOR NOTHING! I WANT
TO KNOW! SEND ME
BACK IN THERE!



OKAY, OKAY. IF
THAT'S WHAT
YOU WANT.






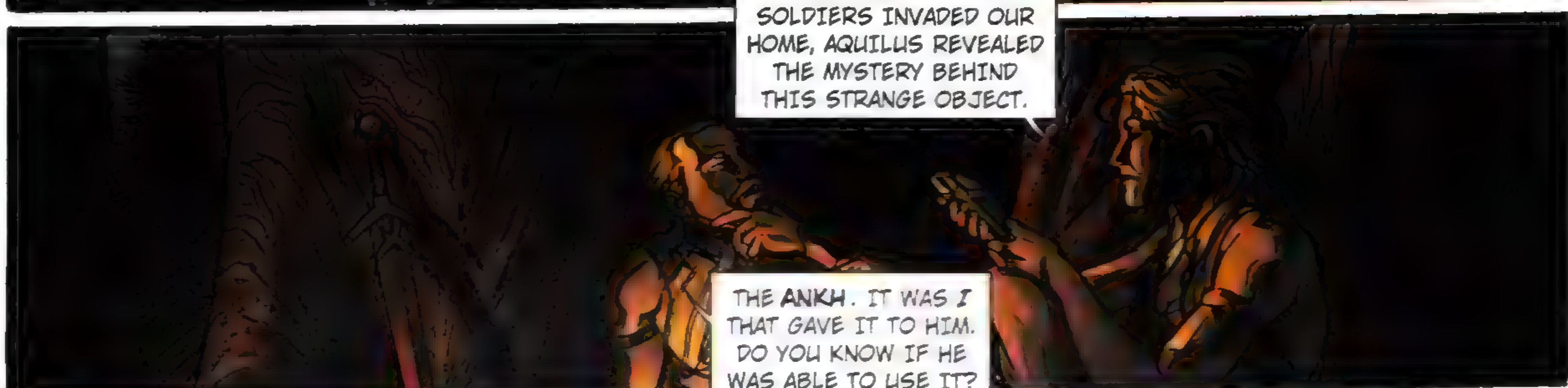


HOW DID YOU
KNOW WHERE
WE WERE?

I WAS
INFORMED OF
YOUR ARREST
BY CHANCE.

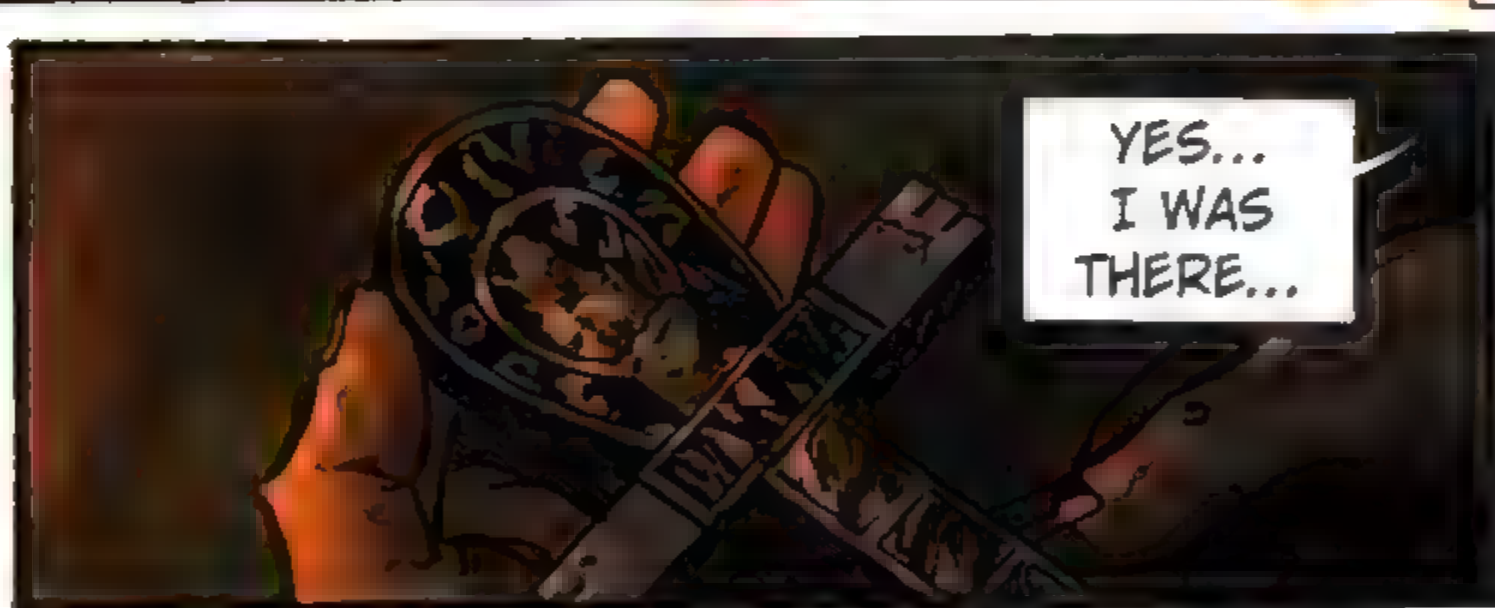


I HURRIED TO THE VILLA, BUT
ARRIVED TOO LATE. THE SOLDIERS
HAD ALREADY TAKEN YOU. IT WAS
YOUR HOUSEMAID WHO TOLD ME
THAT YOU WERE BEING CARTED TO
RODUMNA TO BE TRIED THERE.
I GALLOPED ALL THE WAY...BECAUSE
I KNEW THAT THE PREFECT PLANNED
TO KILL YOU ALONG THE WAY.

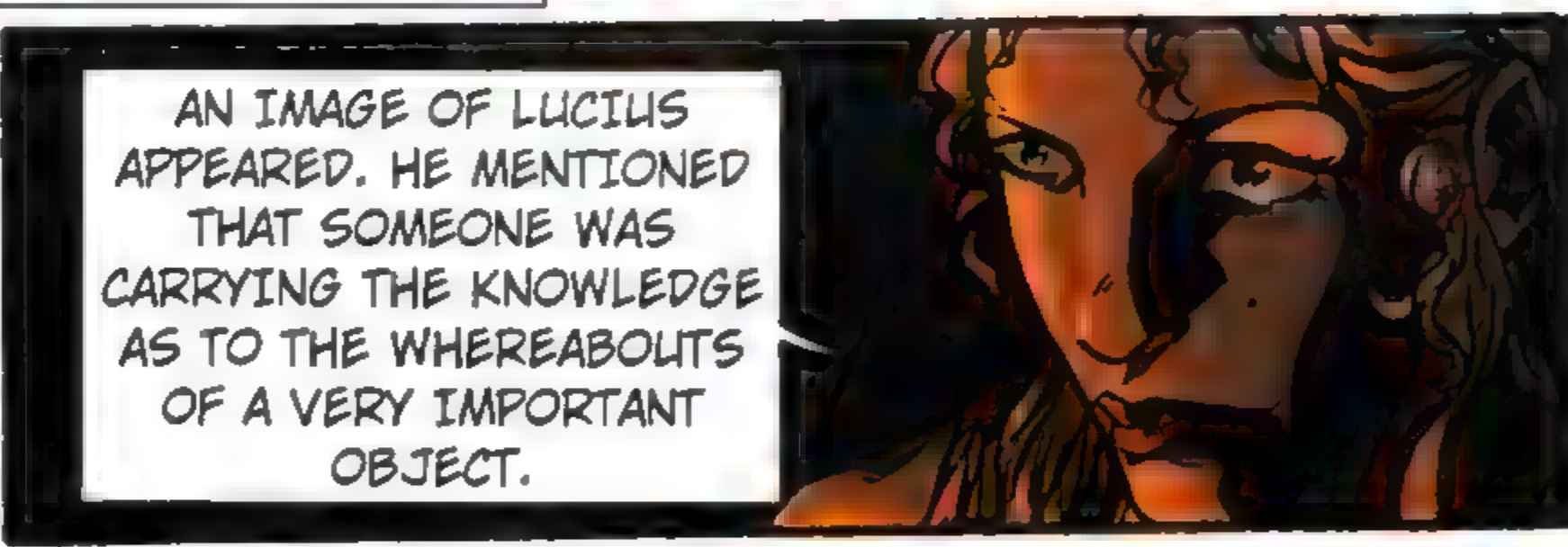


JUST BEFORE THE
SOLDIERS INVADED OUR
HOME, AQUILUS REVEALED
THE MYSTERY BEHIND
THIS STRANGE OBJECT.


THE ANKH. IT WAS I
THAT GAVE IT TO HIM.
DO YOU KNOW IF HE
WAS ABLE TO USE IT?



YES...
I WAS
THERE...




AN IMAGE OF LUCIUS
APPEARED. HE MENTIONED
THAT SOMEONE WAS
CARRYING THE KNOWLEDGE
AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS
OF A VERY IMPORTANT
OBJECT.




DO YOU REMEMBER
THE NAME OF THIS
PERSON?

I... I THINK
IT WAS
LUGOS...

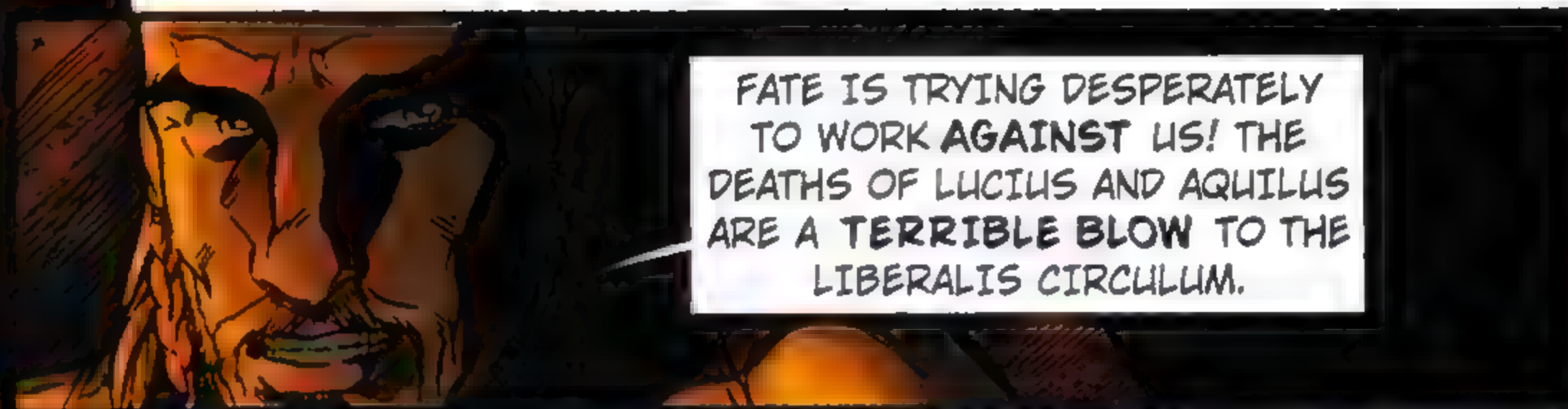


AND THE
LOCATION?

NO, NO.
I'M SORRY.



RIGHT, THEN WE MUST
RETRACE YOUR FOOTSTEPS.
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO
USE THE CROSS?



FATE IS TRYING DESPERATELY TO WORK AGAINST US! THE DEATHS OF LUCIUS AND AQUILUS ARE A TERRIBLE BLOW TO THE LIBERALIS CIRCULUM.

YOUR CIRCLE IS NOT AT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD, ACCIPITER! ME, I'VE LOST A FATHER-IN-LAW AND A HUSBAND! EVERYTHING I ONCE LOVED HAS GONE.

FORGIVE ME, VALERIA. ANGER HAS RENDERED ME BLIND TO YOUR GRIEF.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW? RETURNING TO LUGDUNUM IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. YOU WOULD BE HUNTED AND IMPRISONED!



I'M GOING TO TRY MY LUCK ON THE ITALIAN COAST. A COUSIN OF AQUILUS LIVES IN MONTERIGGIONI. SHE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE ME FOR A FEW MONTHS, ENOUGH TIME TO DELIVER MY BABY.

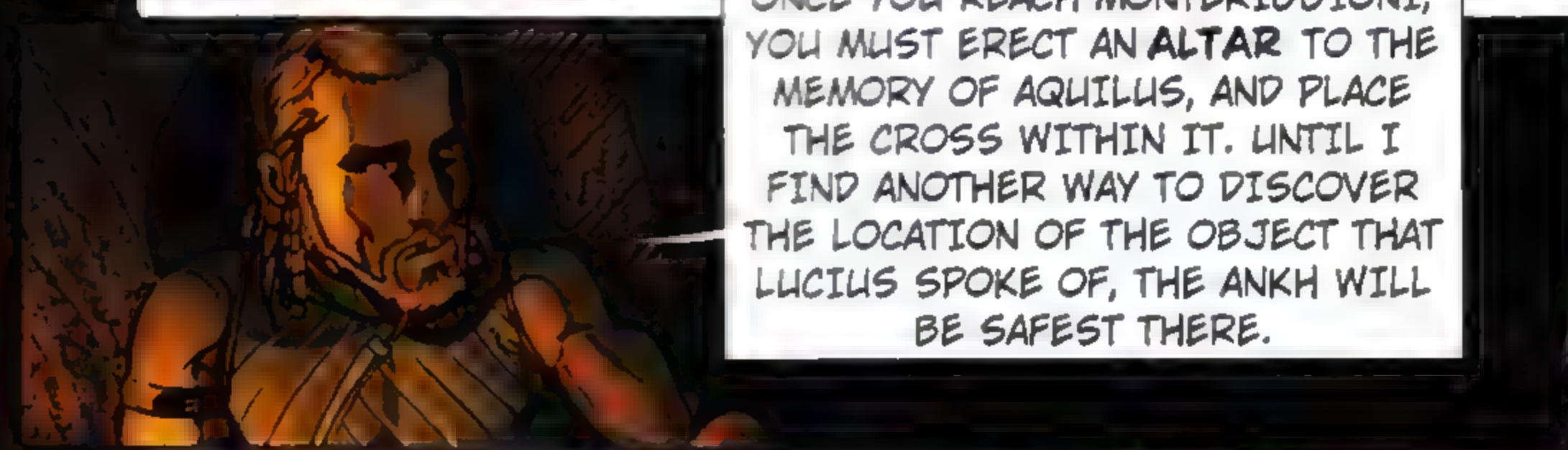


TAKE THIS! TAKE THIS DAMNED OBJECT! I NO LONGER WANT IT!



I AM OUT IN THE COUNTRY. I COULD BE KILLED AT ANY INSTANT! I DON'T WANT TO RISK THE ANKH FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF OUR ENEMIES.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

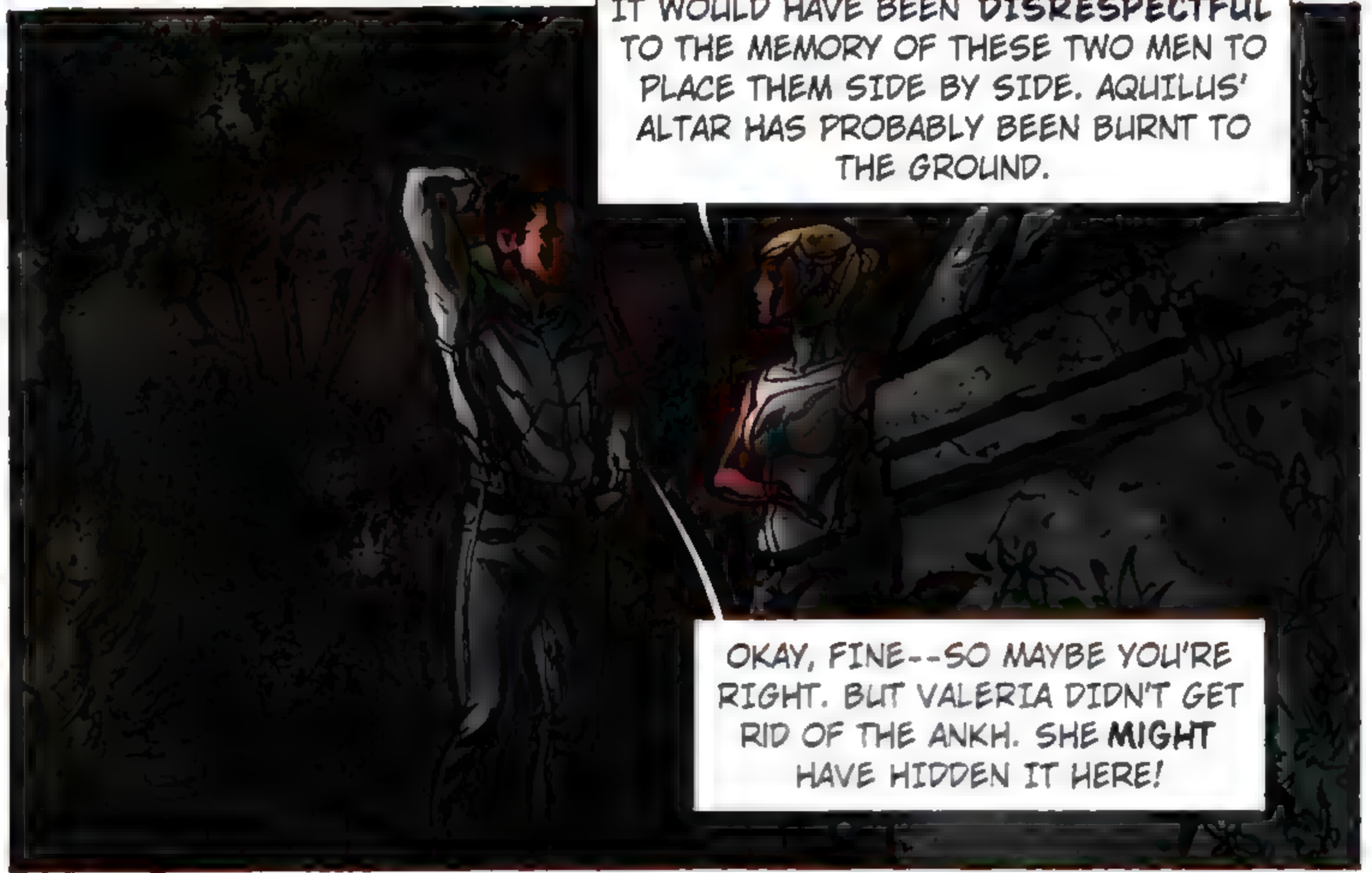
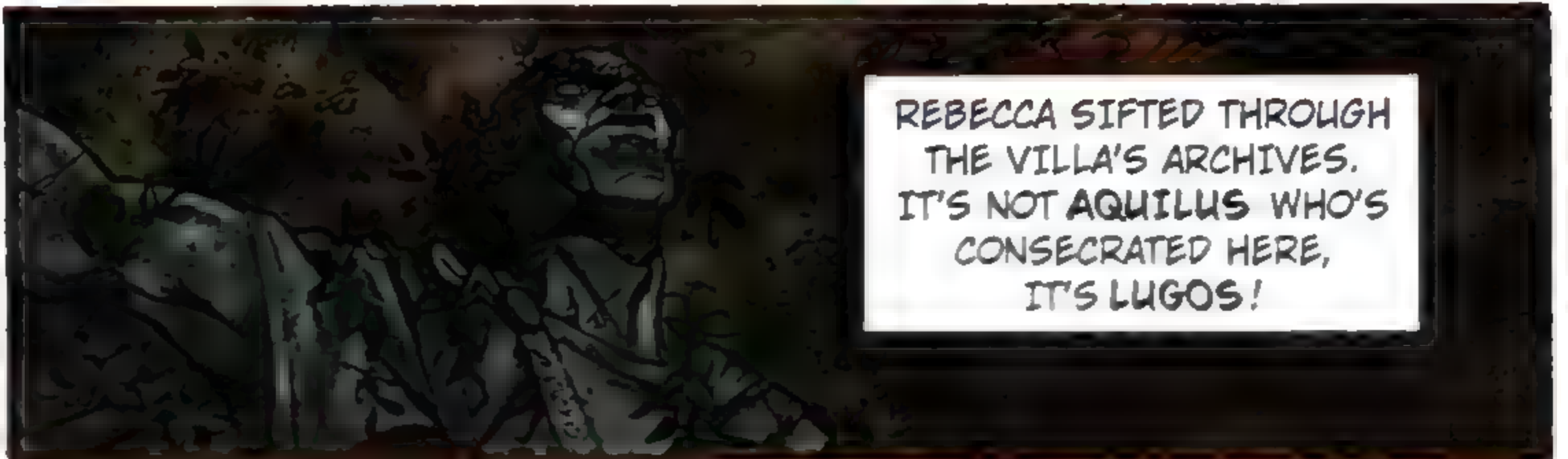
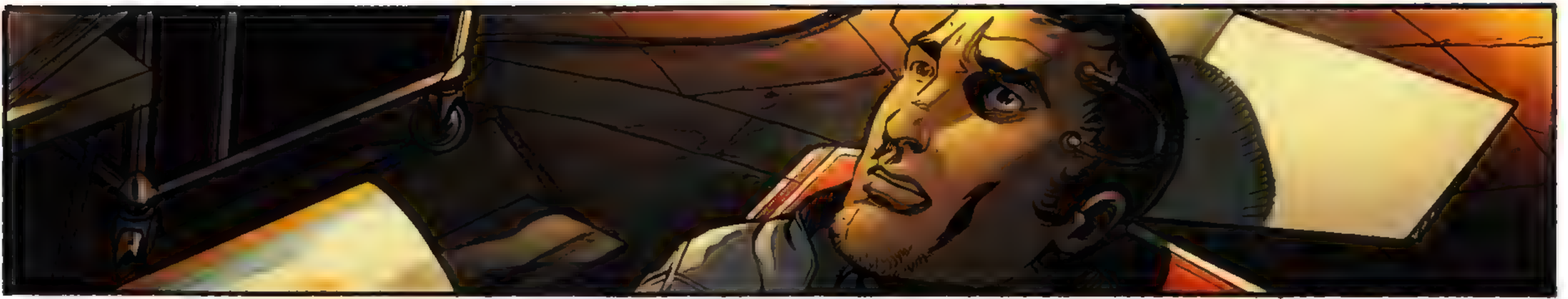


ONCE YOU REACH MONTERIGGIONI, YOU MUST ERECT AN ALTAR TO THE MEMORY OF AQUILUS, AND PLACE THE CROSS WITHIN IT. UNTIL I FIND ANOTHER WAY TO DISCOVER THE LOCATION OF THE OBJECT THAT LUCIUS SPOKE OF, THE ANKH WILL BE SAFEST THERE.

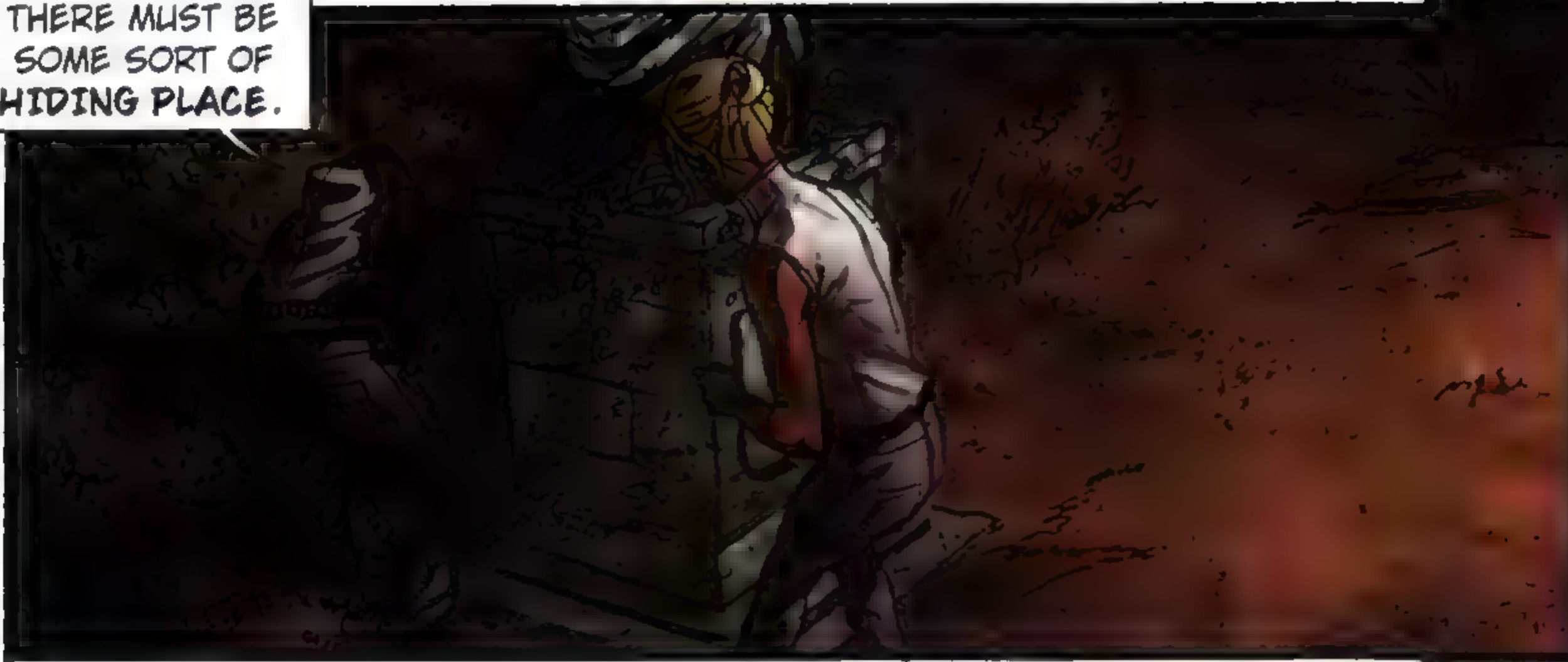


I WILL DO AS YOU WISH...

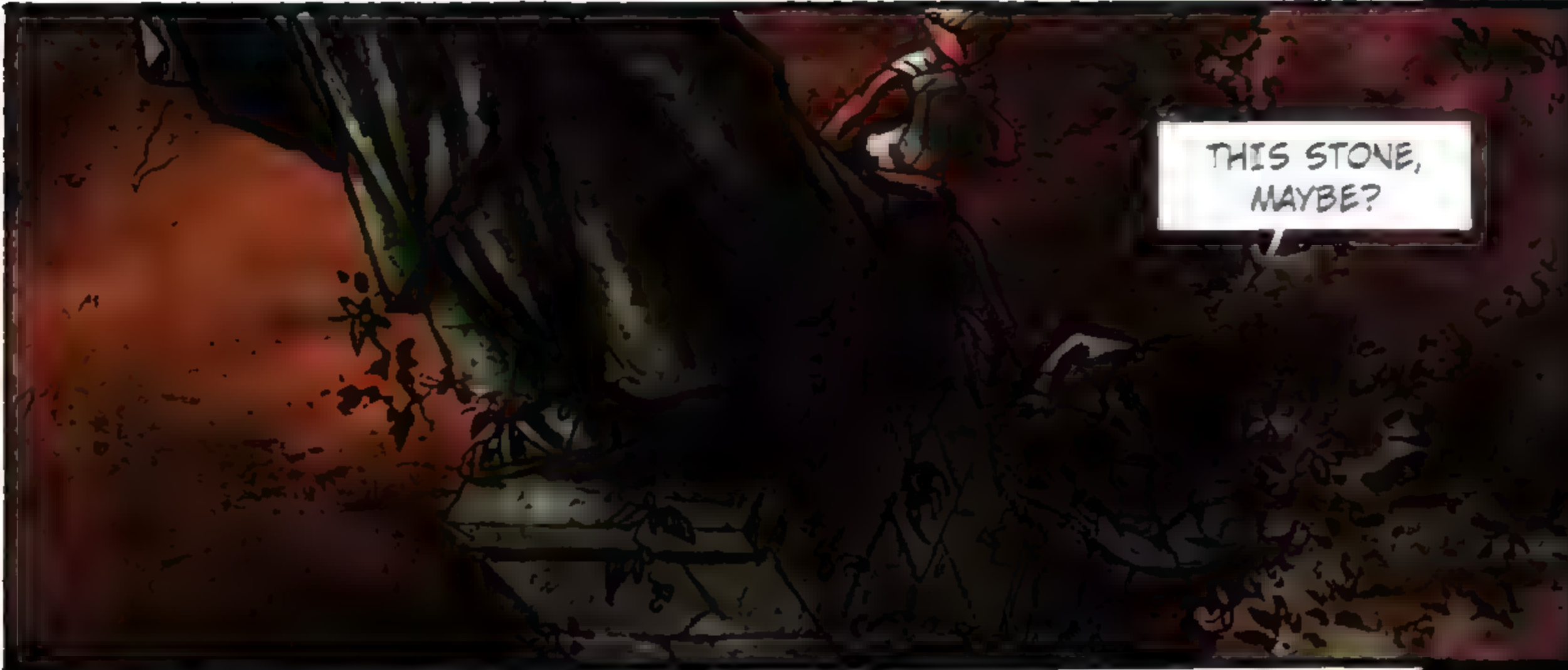
92



THERE MUST BE
SOME SORT OF
HIDING PLACE.



THIS STONE,
MAYBE?



IT'S STILL
INTACT, EVEN
AFTER ALL
THIS TIME.



IT'S ONE OF A
GROUP OF ARTIFACTS
INTRICATELY CRAFTED
BY THE ARTISANS OF A
CIVILIZATION THAT HAS
ALL BUT DISAPPEARED.
THEY CREATED THESE
OBJECTS TO DEEPEN
THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF
HIDDEN WORLDS! IT'S
INDESTRUCTIBLE!

ACCIPITER MADE AN ERROR
IN JUDGMENT. HE WOULD
HAVE HAD TO FOLLOW HIS
INSTINCTS TO MAKE THE
CROSS WORK.



WHY DIDN'T
HE DO IT?

I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE,
IN THE CONFUSION, HE
THOUGHT THAT IT ONLY
CONTAINED LUCIUS'
MESSAGE. WHAT VALERIA
SAID WAS ALONG THOSE
LINES--ACCIPITER DIDN'T
HAVE REASON
TO DOUBT HER.



IT'S NOT
SEALED.



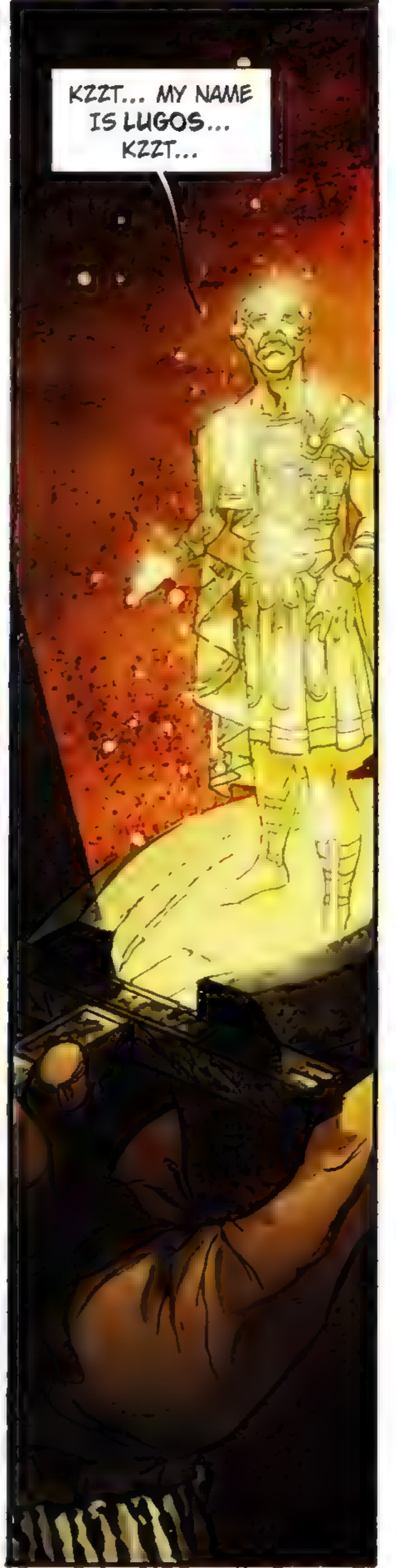
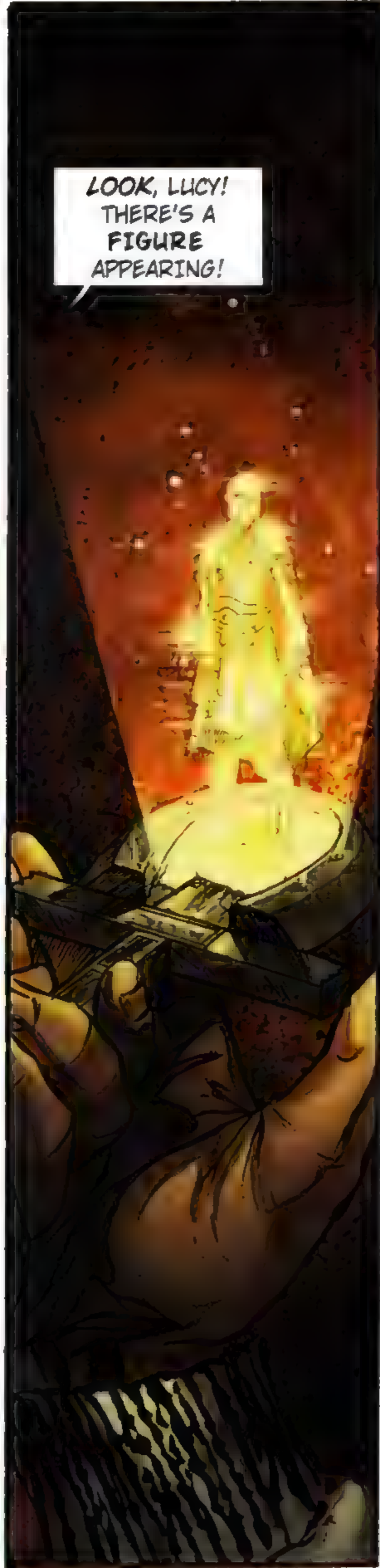
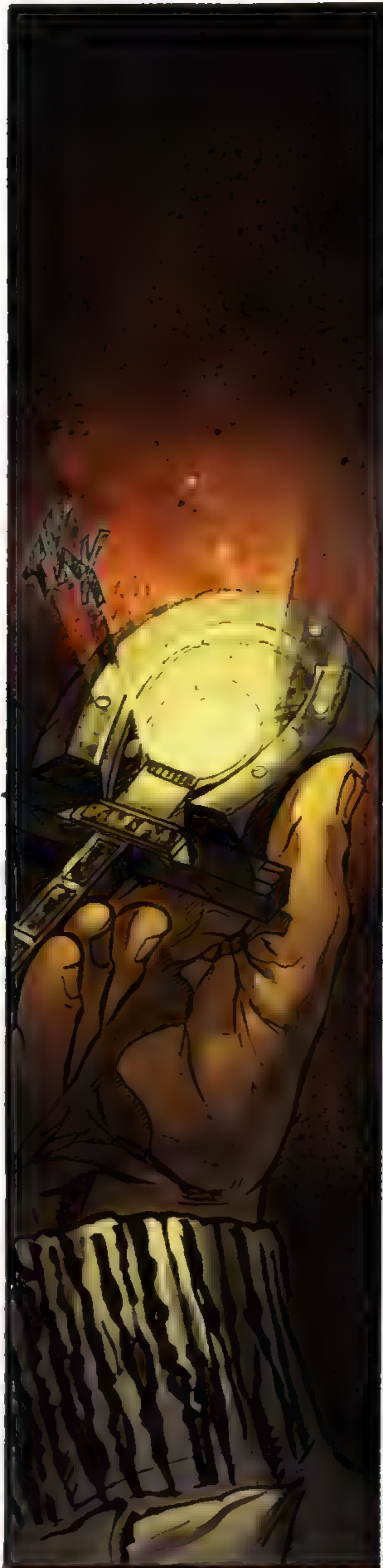
THERE'S THE
ANKH!



AND IF THAT
WAS THE CASE?
IF THE CROSS
DIDN'T CONTAIN
ANY OTHER
'RECORDING'?

THEN NOBODY
WILL BE ABLE TO
COMPLETE AQUILLUS'
MISSION! EVER.



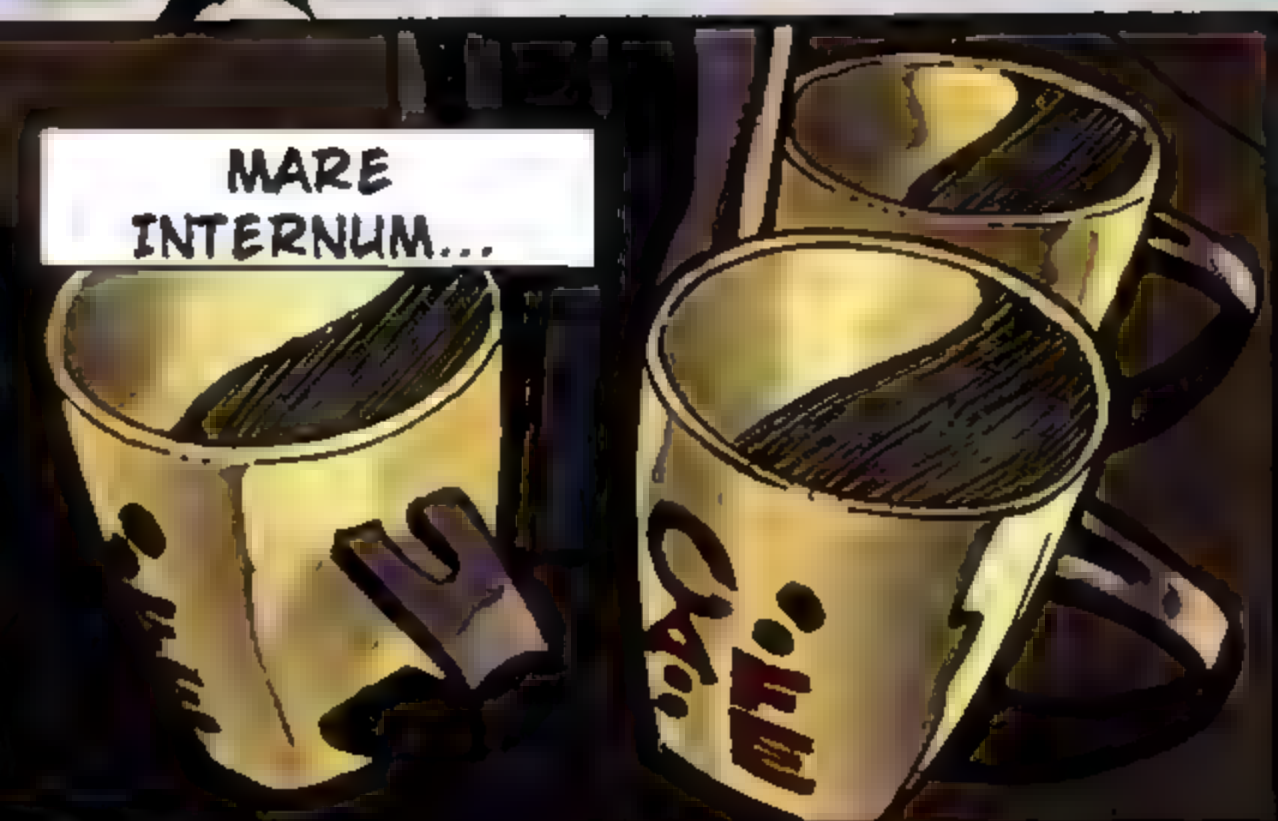
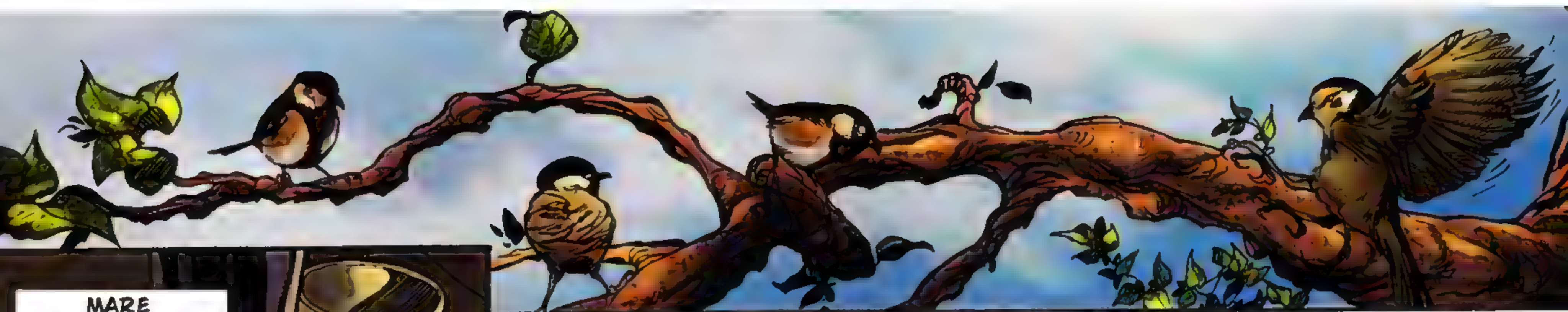


...KZZT... ONE OF
THE FOUNDERS
OF LIBERALIS
CIRCULUM... KZZT...

OUR SHIP WAS DESTROYED BY A
TERRIBLE STORM IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE MARE INTERNUM... AN
ENORMOUS WATERWAY OPENED
BEFORE US... KZZT...

ALAS, WE ARE TOO FAR
FROM THE COAST TO HOPE
TO SURVIVE BY SWIMMING...
KZZT... THE BOAT IS SINKING.
MY FINAL MOMENTS
ARE APPROACHING...

MY MISSION HAS
FAILED... THE OBJECT
WE HAD TO RETRIEVE
IS LOST FOREVER...
KZZT...



MARE
INTERNUM...

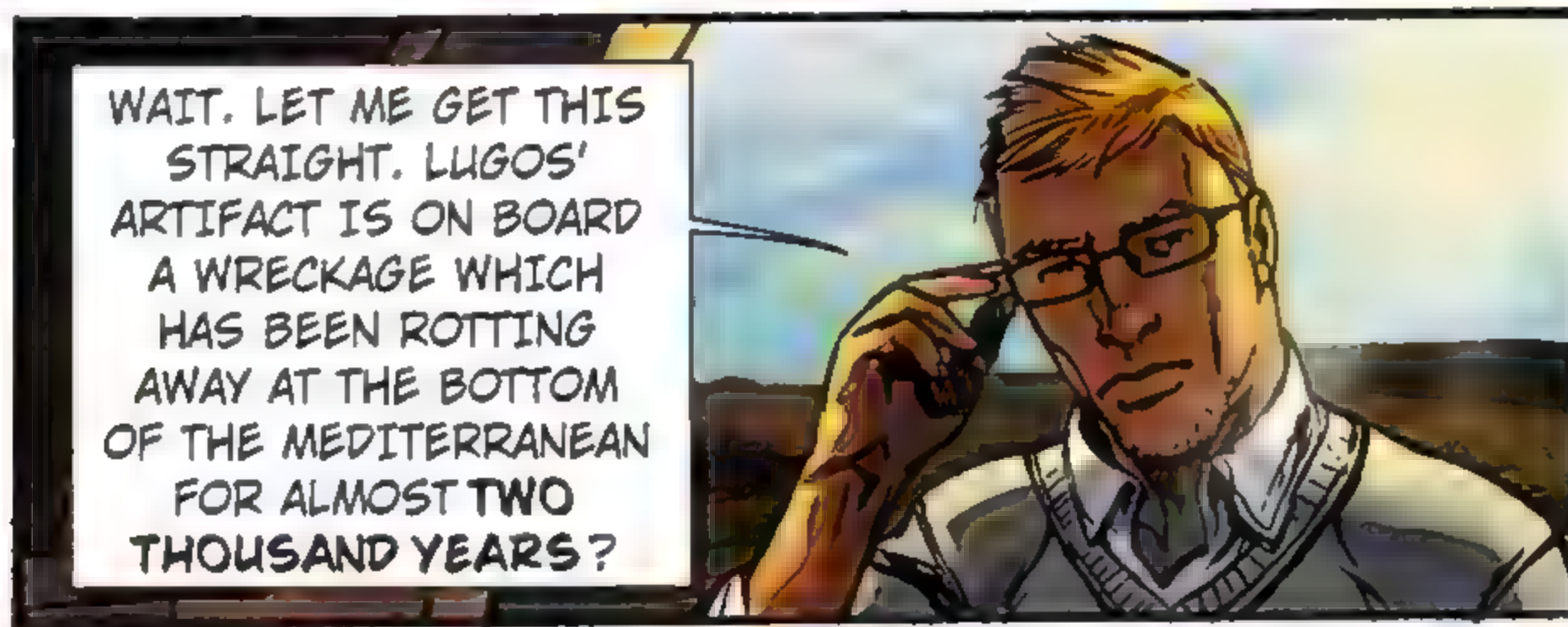


IN LATIN, THAT
MEANS 'THE
INTERNAL SEA'...

OKAY--SO
WHAT?



THAT'S WHAT THE
ROMANS CALLED THE
MEDITERRANEAN. THEY
ALSO USED TO CALL IT
THE 'MARE NOSTRUM'.



WAIT. LET ME GET THIS
STRAIGHT. LUGOS'
ARTIFACT IS ON BOARD
A WRECKAGE WHICH
HAS BEEN ROTTING
AWAY AT THE BOTTOM
OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
FOR ALMOST TWO
THOUSAND YEARS?



AND THAT SERIOUSLY
LIMITS OUR
CHANCES OF EVER
GETTING OUR
HANDS ON IT!

THAT DEPENDS. BACK THEN, IT PROBABLY SEEMED LIKE
AN UNACHIEVABLE TASK. TODAY, TECHNOLOGY HAS
EVOLVED. WE CAN SURVEY THE SEA FLOOR AND FISH
OUT THE SUNKEN TREASURE FROM BELOW.

LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY.
WE HAVE TO PRESENT OUR
FINDINGS TO OTHER TEAMS
AND MAKE A JOINT DECISION.

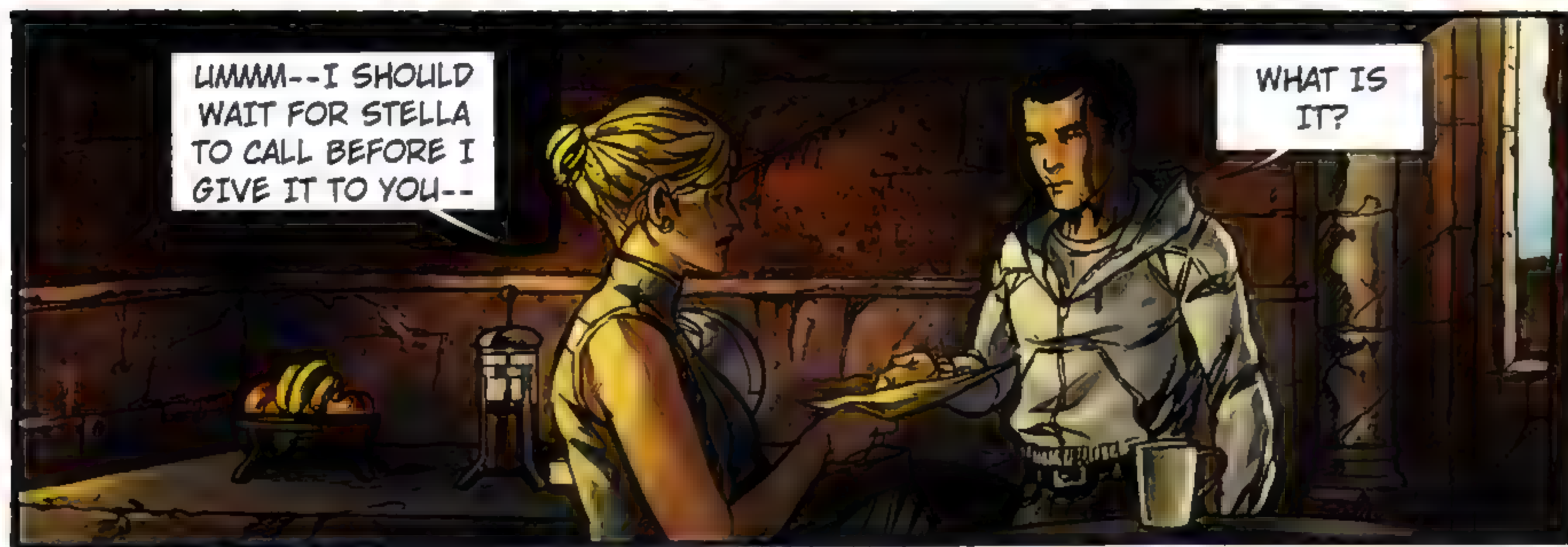


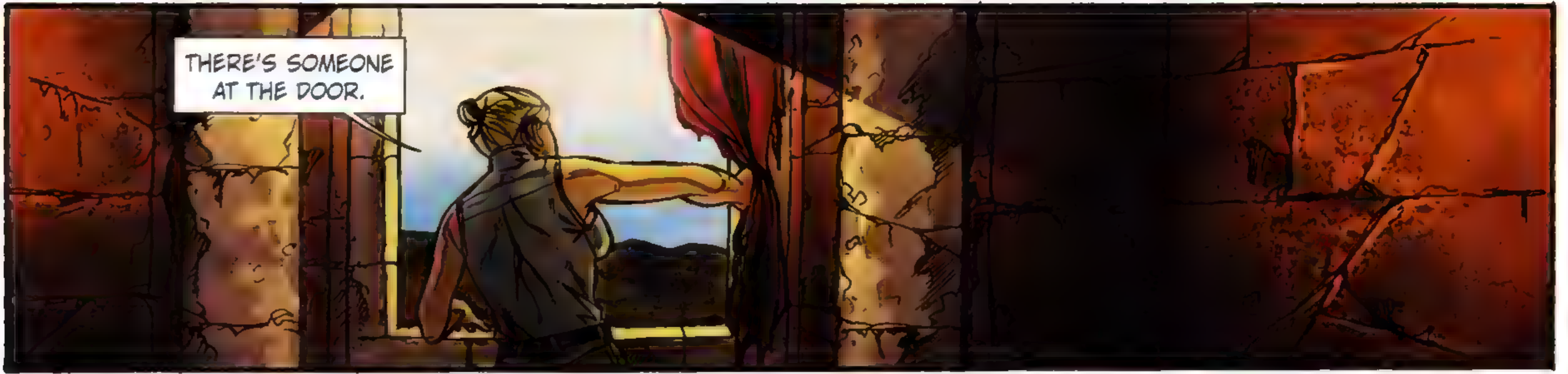
ALL THAT WORK, FOR
THIS? WHAT A WASTE!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR
DISAPPOINTMENT,
DESMOND. BUT I'M AFRAID
THIS DECISION IS NOT
OURS TO MAKE.



"OUR SEA".





THERE'S SOMEONE
AT THE DOOR.



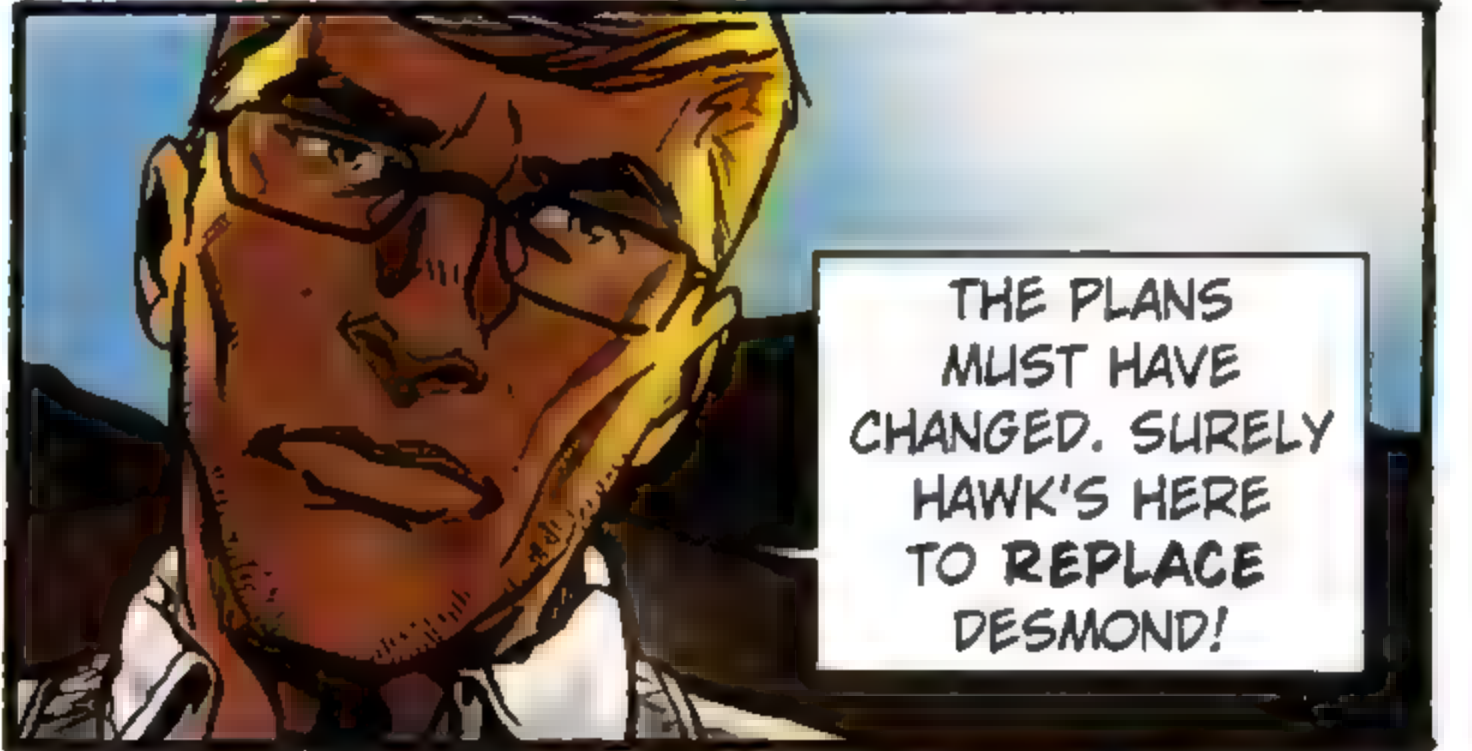
I THINK IT'S
JONATHAN HAWK.

I'LL GET
THE DOOR.



HAWK? WE
WEREN'T
EXPECTING HIM.
WHAT'S HE
DOING HERE?

ACCORDING TO CROW,
I HAVE TO HAND THIS
FILE OVER TO HIM.



THE PLANS
MUST HAVE
CHANGED. SURELY
HAWK'S HERE
TO REPLACE
DESMOND!



GOT IT IN ONE, MR
HASTINGS. THE MISSION
PARAMETERS HAVE BEEN
RECONFIGURED. I'VE BEEN
ASSIGNED TO THIS TEAM.



DESMOND, THIS IS
JONATHAN HAWK.

PLEASURE.

BACK
AT YA.



I'VE HEARD SO MUCH
ABOUT YOU, MR MILES.

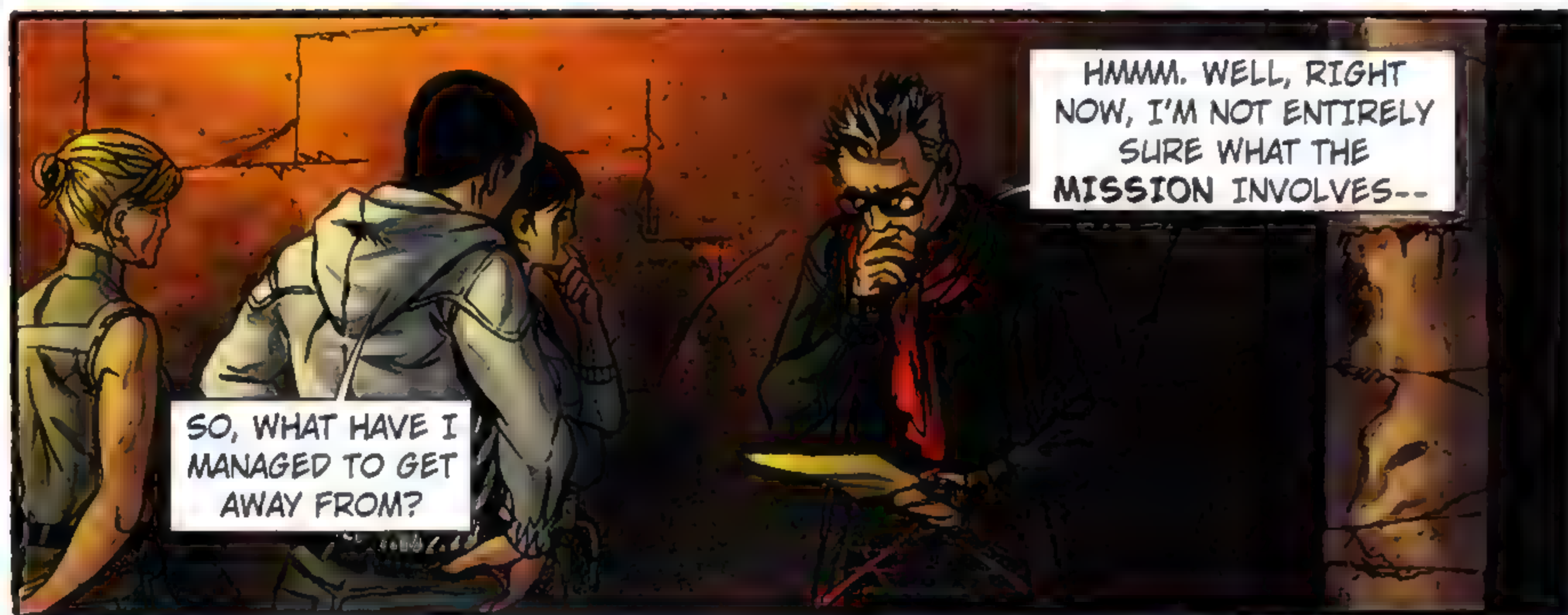
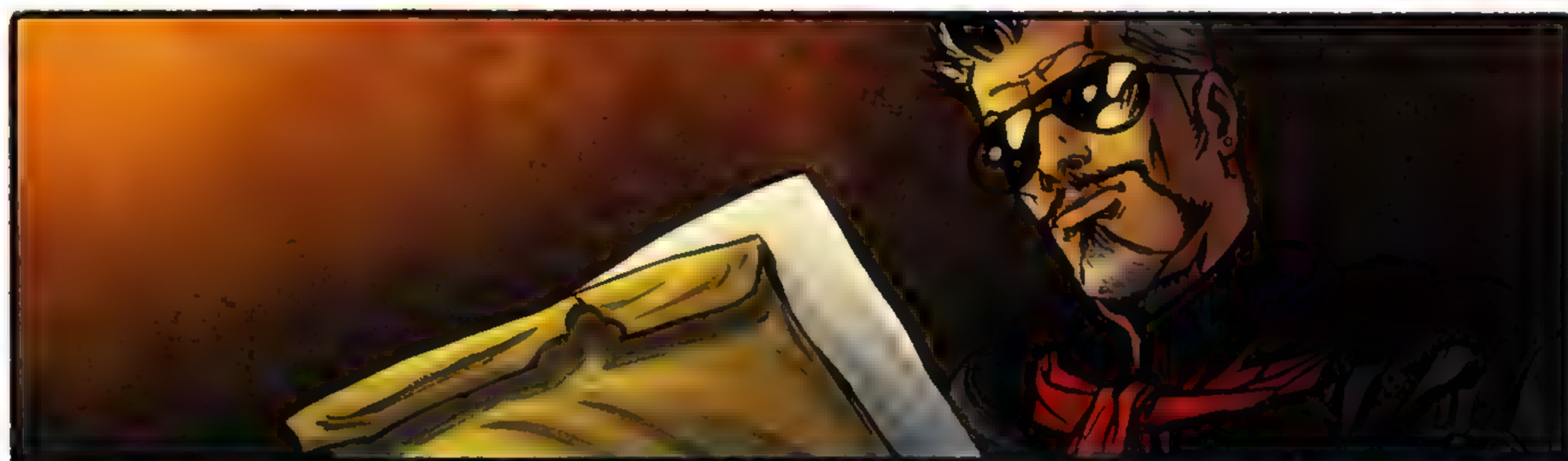
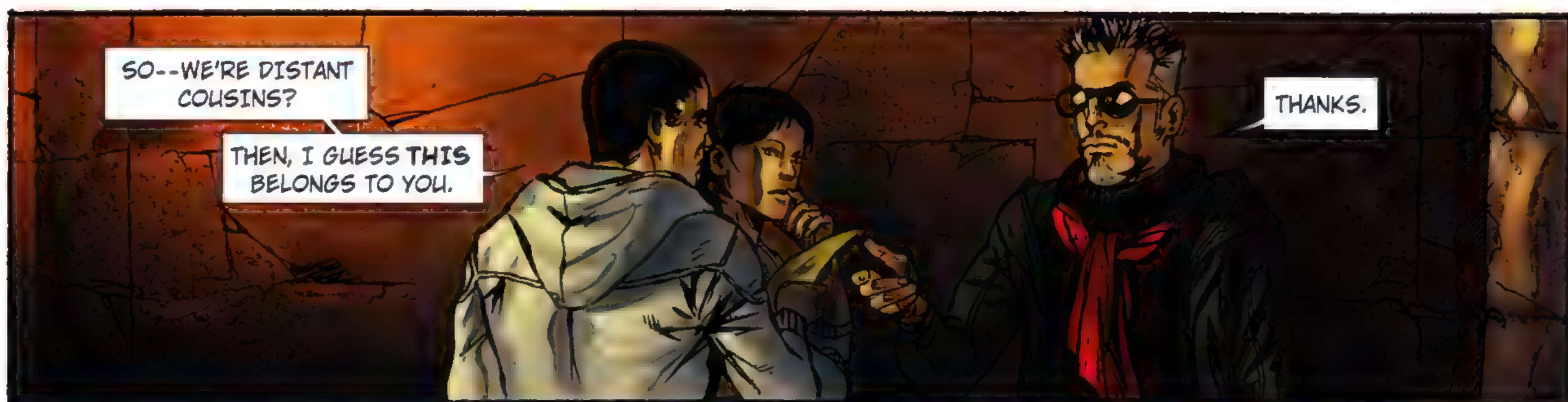
I WISH I
COULD SAY
THE SAME
ABOUT YOU,
JONATHAN.



ALTHOUGH--I'VE
GOT THE STRANGEST
FEELING I'VE SEEN YOU
SOMEWHERE BEFORE.



HEH, YOU
COULD SAY
THAT. AS A
MATTER OF
FACT, WE
HAVE ALREADY
MET. I AM A
DESCENDANT
OF ACCIPITER.



Aquilus wants desperately to avenge the death of his father.

His thirst for revenge leads the Assassin to Rome, and sets him on a quest for the hidden Ankh.

But it's not going to be easy, as the savage Barbarian tribes, led by the deadly Assassin Accipiter, are ready to descend upon Lugdunum and Italy...

*The characters from the hit videogame, **Assassin's Creed** (which has now sold more than 8 million copies) come to life under the penmanship of celebrated writer Corbeyran ("Le Chant des Styrges", "XIII Mystery") and artist Djillali Defali ("Uchronies") who take us on an exciting adventure which defies time and science as we know it—a completely new story which will shock and surprise new readers and videogame fans alike!*

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